MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 FEBRUARY 1982

Egypt

Mubarak Remarks -- President Husni Mubarak, in remarks reported by MENA, said he told President Ronald Reagan during their talks in Washington that there will be no stability in the Middle East unless the Palestinian problem is solved. According to Mubarak, he explained that Egypt adheres to its nonaligned policy, particularly now more than ever before, and will not agree to give bases to anyone. However, he told Reagan that Egypt is prepared to grant facilities to the U.S. side when there is a specific reason acceptable to Egypt. Mubarak said he emphasized to the U.S. President that Sudan is in need of important and urgent assistance. He also noted that the United States has agreed to begin delivery of F-16 aircraft to Egypt in March. Mubarak concluded his remarks by strongly denying rumors that he plans to take extraordinary domestic measures, "whatever the circumstances may be." Asserting that food and homes for the people are his priorities, he said "all the other things called for by some people" are of no concern to him.

Citing AL-AHRAM, MENA reported that President Mubarak has stated that Egypt has no secret or public contacts with the Soviet Union.

Comment on Peace, Israel -- An AL-AKHBAR commentary reported by MENA said the Middle East situation is so dangerous that it requires an urgent peace initiative by those Arab states interested in achieving peace. According to another MENA report, AL-AHRAM criticized Israel for considering the recent UN General Assembly resolution on the Golan issue as null and void rather than considering its own decision to annex the Golan Heights as equally null and void.

Israel

Knesset Debate -- In a Knesset debate on the recent UN General Assembly resolution calling for a boycott against Israel, reported by IDF radio, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir ridiculed the notion that representatives of countries like Syria, Iraq, the Soviet Union and Libya were seeking to determine whether Israel is peace-loving. He reminded MK's of the grave danger that would have threatened Israel's existence had the Golan Heights not been held when the 1973 Yom Kippur war broke out. Shamir said this fact is the basis of the national agreement that Israel will never descend from the Golan and of the government's decision to apply Israeli law to the area. Shamir also reiterated that Israel is prepared at any time to negotiate without preconditions with all its neighbors in order to sign peace agreements.

Jordanian Message -- MA'ARIV claimed that in diplomatic contacts between Washington and Amman, Jordan undertook to conduct vigorous activity to block terrorism from its territory. According to the paper, a Jordanian message conveyed via U.S. channels informed Israel that the terrorists enter Jordan from Syria under the guise of tourists and carry out their activities contrary to Jordan's desires.

PLO

Meeting Urged, 'Arafat Remarks -- An official Palestinian source in Damascus has called for an urgent meeting of the Arab Joint Defense Council to discuss Israeli preparations for a large-scale military adventure in southern Lebanon, QNA reported. In a Beirut speech reported by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat asserted that when U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig said he did not want Israel to stage a big operation in Lebanon, he meant that he wants instead a selective operation. 'Arafat warned that Israel has not canceled its planned strike in Lebanon, but has changed its time and nature. Noting the PLO's pledge to maintain the cease-fire across the Lebanese border, 'Arafat appealed to the Arab states to open their borders to fedayeen activity.

Lebanon

In an interview reported by MONDAY MORNING, Amal movement Command Council Chairman Nabih Birri said his movement's differences with the PLO concern means not ends. Stressing the need for an "ideal formula that will preserve both the south and the Palestinian gun," he said Palestinian guerrillas should establish their bases far from the Lebanese villages. He admitted that the launching of guerrilla operations from the villages leads to Israeli retaliation against them, which causes the villagers to resent the Palestinian presence.

Birri noted that the Amal opposes the National Movement's newly formed security force on the grounds that it is a violation of the supremacy of the government. He also disclosed that Amal's arms come via Syria.

Weinberger Tour

At a joint press conference in Dhahran prior to the departure of U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, SPA reported, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz expressed the hope that the U.S. administration will adopt a firm posture toward Israel's unjust annexation of the Golan Heights. Riyadh radio reported that Prince Sultan subsequently told SPA that the Saudi-U.S. talks were "good and fine." He noted that in the talks both sides reviewed current projects to avoid "discrepancies" and "problems with some purchases."

Iran

Tavakkoli Interview -- Government spokesman Ahmad Tavakkoli, in an interview carried by Tehran radio, said the United States, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Jordan are hatching new plots against Iran, citing as evidence U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger's visit to "Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Oman" and an alleged meeting in Riyadh between Weinberger and Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan.

Tavakkoli revealed that 22 people were killed and six hideouts uncovered in the raid which resulted in the death of Mojahedin-e Khalq commander Musa Khiabani. Calling the operation the biggest blow to the counterrevolution since recent events in Amol, he opined that the Mojahedin will now be unable to carry out any major move.

Rajavi Press Conference -- Exiled Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi reaffirmed at a Paris press conference that his group intends to fight the Khomeyni regime until it is overthrown, AFP reported. Claiming the allegiance of 40 percent of Iran's Armed Forces as opposed to 10 percent for Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, Rajavi said that the Khomeyni regime is based on a worse terror than that of the former shah, but that resistance nevertheless exists. Rajavi conjectured that his 1-year-old son was killed during the 8 February raid.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

INA reported that fighters of the special task brigades, whose formation was announced on 6 January by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, have participated in the Bostan area battles since 6 February and have successfully carried out their tasks. A military communique carried by INA said the Iraqi forces continued their advance in the Bostan area. INA also reported the arrival in Damascus of the corpses of 29 Syrians, including 17 officers, who had been fighting alongside Iranian troops in Susangerd.

An Iranian communique broadcast by Tehran radio stated that Iran launched a counteroffensive near Tang-e Chazzabeh, 10 km northwest of Bostan, and pinned the enemy forces down in their positions. The communique said an intensive battle was continuing on this front.

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 028 *10 February 1982*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Qaddumi Confirms PLO Reshuffle Underway [KUNA] A 1
Qaddumi Warns of Israeli Measures, Attacks U.S. [VOP] A 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GULF AFFAIRS

More on Press Conference Held by GCC Officials [Manama] C 1

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Reports on GCC Meeting C 3
Agreement Signed With Soviet Chamber of Commerce C 3

OMAN

U.S. Defense Secretary Arrives for Talks C 4
Meets Sultan Qabus [WAKH] C 4
Deputy Prime Minister Views CCC, PDRY Threat [WAKH] C 5

SAUDI ARABIA

Defense Minister Interviewed on Current Issues [London AL-HAWADITH 5 Feb] C 5
Weinberger, Prince Sultan Hold Press Conference C 13
Prince Sultan Views Talks C 14

EGYPT

Mubarak Details Discussions From Recent Tour D 1
Radio Commentary Cites Achievements From Tour D 2
AL-AKHBAR Views Middle East 'at Crossroads' [9 Feb] D 3
AL-JUMHURIYAH Calls for U.S.-PLO Dialogue [9 Feb] D 3
AL-AHRAM Considers Israeli Reaction to UN Move [9 Feb] D 4
Cultural Minister Departs for Tel Aviv Talks D 4
Mubarak Denies Any Form of Soviet Contacts D 4
AL-AHRAM Sees Omani-Egyptian Ties Strengthened [9 Feb] D 5
Court Seeks Action Against As-Sadat Trial Writer D 5
Mubarak To Chair NDP Political Bureau Meeting D 5

IRAQ

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 610 E 1
Government Source on POW's Families Visits E 2
KDP Fighters To Join Battle Against Iran E 2
Baghdad Berates Iran's Call to Nonaligned Group E 3
Kurdish Radio Sums Up Peshmerga Operations [Voice of Iraqi Revolution] E 4
Briefs: GP Secretary Reelected; Turkish Cooperation E 4

JORDAN

King Husayn Addresses Al-Yarmuk Volunteers F 1
Hasan Ibrahim Receives Hungarian Official F 2
Deputy Foreign Minister Leaves F 2
Pakistani Chief of Staff Departs 4 Feb F 2

LEBANON

AS-SAFIR Editorial Seeks Sanctions Against US G 1
[7 Feb]
Amal Leader Discusses Other Parties in Interview G 1
[MONDAY MORNING 1-7 Feb]
Haddad on Volunteers To Iran; Raps Amal, Syria G 7

SYRIA

AL-BA'TH on Israel's Buildup in S. Lebanon [10 Feb] H 1
AL-MUSTAQBAL Interviews Foreign Minister Khaddam H 1
[Paris 6 Feb]
MONDAY MORNING Interviews Information Minister [1-7 Feb] H 5
Ash-Shar' Confers With French Ambassador H 9

ISRAEL

Knesset Debates UN General Assembly Resolution I 1
UN Resolution Denounced I 2
Jordan To Make 'Greater Effort' To Curb Terrorism I 2
[MA'ARIV 9 Feb]
Arens Interviewed on Israeli-U.S. Relations I 3
Egypt Rejects Demarcation Plan for Rafah [HA'ARETZ 9 Feb] I 6
Transportation Talks With Egypt Begin 8 Feb I 7
Talks End After Disagreement I 7
MA'ARIV: Restraint in Lebanon Justified [9 Feb] I 8
Poll Shows Begin, Sharon Equal in Popularity [POST 9 Feb] I 9

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Reportage on OAU Committee on Sahara Meeting P 1
Third Session [Nairobi] P 1
Polisario Delegation [APS] P 1
Boucetta Address [MAP] P 2
Update on Proceedings [Nairobi] P 3
Cease-fire Timetable [Nairobi] P 3
AFP Account P 4

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Returns 9 Feb From Nairobi Meeting Q 1
ANC Chairman Holds Press Conference in Algiers Q 1
[EL MOUDJAHID 28 Jan]

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Academics, Discusses Lebanon Q 2
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Nicaragua's Wheelock 9 Feb Q 2
Romanian Presidential Counselor Ends Visit Q 3

MAURITANIA

Coup Foiled 7 Feb With 'Greatest Discretion' [AFP] Q 3
Further AFP Report Q 3
Official Addresses Cadre Meeting 9 Feb Q 4

MOROCCO

King Hassan Returns From Visit to France Q 4
LE MATIN on Algerian 'Lies' on Sahara Referendum [22 Jan] Q 5

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Receives Libyan Secretary 9 Feb Q 6

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Issues Directives on Eritrea 9 Feb R 1
Eritreans Down Plane; Soviets, Cubans Dead [Cairo] R 1
Embassy in Dakar Rejects IAS Resolution [AFP] R 1

CENTRAL AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Kolingba Completes Law on Special Tribunal [AFP] S 1

CHAD

Goukouni, Delegation Leave for Nairobi Summit [AFP] S 1
Mobutu Visit Postponed; Authorities Silent [AFP] S 1

RWANDA

President Habyarimana Reshuffles Cabinet 8 Feb S 1

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

Military Personnel Killed in Recent Clashes [AFP] T 1
Council Appoints Two New GBC Directors T 1
Workers Burn Markets; Food Stock Seized [AFP] T 2
Antismuggling Campaign on Togo Border Launched T 2

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Cuba's Risquet Speaks to Journalists, Ends Visit U 1
Dos Santos Receives Portuguese Council Member U 1
U.S.-RSA Plan Namibia Independence Declaration U 1

ZAMBIA

'Sophisticated Weapons' Obtained From USSR U 2
[London DAILY TELEGRAPH 6 Feb]

ZIMBABWE

Official Says More ZAPU Arms Caches Found U 3
ZAPU Integrity Questioned U 3

QADDUMI CONFIRMS PLO RESHUFFLE UNDERWAY

LD091218 Kuwait KUNA in English 1025 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Beirut, 9 Feb (KUNA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization's chief diplomat, Faruq Qaddumi, Tuesday denied "British and Israeli information" about an alleged split within the guerrilla movement's command regarding a reshuffle of its diplomatic corps.

Qaddumi, who heads the PLO's Political Department (Foreign Ministry), however, confirmed that a reshuffle is underway.

"It is known world-wide that foreign ministries undergo reshuffles every three or four years. We have more than 84 offices (embassies) abroad and most of these offices' officials have requested a transfer for health reasons or considerations related to the education of their children," Qaddumi explained in an interview with the "Lebanese News Agency" which is a private daily newsletter.

"The Political Department has taken all these requests into consideration," announced Qaddumi, better known as Abu al-Lutf.

British news organization claimed recently that a conflict was underway between Qaddumi and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat over the Saudi Arabian eight-point project for peace in the Middle East which allegedly led to a controversial reshuffle of the PLO diplomatic corps.

Both 'Arafat and Qaddumi are, among others, co-founders of the mainstream guerrilla faction Al-Fatah.

Qaddumi charged that sources for "these baseless information are British and Israeli."

Qaddumi said Arab foreign ministers are to consider during their forthcoming session, scheduled for next Friday at the Tunisian capital of Tunis, "stands" adopted by various un-identified states during the U.N. General Assembly meeting which climaxed in a resolution denouncing Israel for annexing the occupied Syrian Golan Heights last December.

The Palestinian diplomat, furthermore, called on the Arabs to "seriously consider recent Israeli threats against Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the PLO...that place the whole region at the brink of a new all-out Arab-Israeli war."

QADDUMI WARNS OF ISRAELI MEASURES, ATTACKS U.S.

NC091339 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1245 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has warned of the recent Zionist measures, which have increased tension, and stressed that consequently the area is on the verge of a new war. He strongly attacked the U.S. support for and encouragement of the repeated Israeli aggressions and threats against the Arabs and condemned the EEC member-states' stands, describing them as disappointing and hesitant.

In a lengthy interview with the Lebanese News Agency, he said the stands of states during the UN General Assembly's debate will be the main subject on the agenda of the Arab foreign ministers conference to be held in Tunis, 18 February.

Brother Abu al-Lutf noted that Israel has persistently created pretexts for aggression. He said Israel claims that the Palestinians have violated the cease-fire, while it daily carries out provocations against the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces. Its planes fly daily over southern Lebanon in order to draw the revolution and the joint forces into a battle, forcing us to breach our commitment to the decisions adopted in this respect.

GULF AFFAIRS

MORE ON PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY GCC OFFICIALS

GF081100 Manama Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Feb 82

["Text" of press conference held by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister and chairman of the extraordinary session of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], and 'Abdallah Bisharam, GCC secretary general, at the Sheraton Hotel in Manama on 7 February 1982 after the GCC Ministerial Council meeting -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Are there undeclared resolutions approved by the GCC emergency ministerial conference meeting regarding Iranian-Gulf relations?

[Shaykh Muhammad] We, in the GCC, are working collectively in a clear and frank way. As I have said, this meeting was held to exchange views, explain things and adopt stands which we believe will be convenient to treat these issues. In my view, such issues were discussed during this meeting. We were all convinced of the need to confront any aggression or any intervention in our internal affairs. I believe the meeting has achieved the goals we sought.

[Question] Your Excellency, you (?stated) that there is no possibility of confrontation between Iran and the Gulf but that if any aggression should take place it would be confronted. You stated, though, that there is a move to achieve a kind of neighborliness and to stop the bloodshed in the Iraqi-Iranian war. What steps can be taken in this direction?

[Shaykh Muhammad] I request that the questions not be stated in a way to escalate the situation. We, here, want to arrive at solutions that serve the region's welfare, stability and development. I believe all of us are working to resolve any existing difference. As I have said, we want stability and coexistence to prevail in this region. In view of what I have said, this is the method we will adopt. We want to fortify the Gulf homes. Our goal is to strengthen and bolster collective action.

['Abdallah Bisharah] I beg your pardon. I want to add one point regarding the policy of the GCC countries. This policy did not stem from the emergency conference but from the summit resolutions -- the first summit in Abu Dhabi and the second in Riyadh. This policy is: The security, stability and territorial integrity of the Gulf countries is a responsibility that should be borne by the sons of the GCC countries and the sons of the Gulf. Consequently, our responsibility -- when we want to discuss a temporary issue or a permanent one -- is that discussion must continue to ensure the unity of the GCC members and to stave off threats and ensure their territorial independence and sovereignty. This means that our policy is to look for internal solidity. We believe that when this is achieved -- which we are trying to do and which we have begun working on -- threats and dangers will automatically diminish and shrink.

[Question in English] Could you summarize in English the decisions taken by the council on the threats posed by Iran to the security of the Gulf states and the responsibility, if any, of Iran for the events here in Bahrain in December?

[Shaykh Muhammad, in English] Well, actually we will be ready to give you a full translation of this communique later on and it applies actually to the question you (?asked on) where we stand on this issue. We made it very clear in this communique.

[Question in English] Can you elaborate at all (?on what) we have, in your own words?

[Shaykh Muhammad, in English] You see, our policy here is based on cooperation of the Gulf states against any threat or aggression from outside. And the collective security of the GCC conference is the responsibility of those states. So this is really the main point mentioned in that paragraph concerning the situation in the Gulf area.

['Abdallah Bisharah, in English] The genesis, in fact the thought, of the charter of the GCC is based on a collective endeavor and a collective endeavor generates collective responsibility. When we talk about the territorial integrity of the member states and the political independence, we bear in our mind and stress the point that it is a collective responsibility that should be shouldered by all member states. And this is the approach we have taken. It is an approach which we did not invent but emanates from the charter of the GCC.

[Question] No doubt the problem now has two faces: the first is internal stability and security. Also, the foreign aspect is keeping the region away from areas of domination. After the conference, will we allow the Rapid Deployment Force to carry out training in any of the Gulf states?

[Shaykh Muhammad] Thank you. I want to say the responsibility for defending this region is that of the Gulf states alone. We are now at the beginning of the road. We are now coordinating among our countries in the security field, both internally and defensively. We have great hopes and we are now at the beginning of the road. We hope this goal will be achieved: that our defense forces will complement each other to confront any foreign ambitions. As for internal security, it is the responsibility of each country. Nevertheless, there is coordination. As for foreign troops, we are against carrying out any kind of training in this region. Thank you.

[Question in English] I don't know what you were saying in Arabic, but you were speaking about collective responsibility and collective security. How does this go? If Iran should bomb Kuwait again as they have in the past, would this be considered an attack on Bahrain and an attack on Saudi Arabia?

[Shaykh Muhammad, in English] Well, you see, yes, our meaning of collective security is any threat to any of the states is a threat to the others. And when those states are being attacked, the others collectively will act together against any aggression. But to make this effective it needs lots of coordination, and that is what we just have started. You know, we speak about the first meeting of the defense ministers and the first meeting of the interior ministers. [words indistinct] Quite a time before we make our force in this area an effective one. But that doesn't mean that if there is any threat against one of those states, all other five will collectively try their best to defend that part. So I think this is one of the main principles of the creation of the Gulf Cooperation Council. But, as I said from the beginning, to make this effective needs lots of work among the people who are specialized in the field of defense. And I think they just started, and I hope they are going to continue. And we will see in the future, the near future, the real arrangement between the Gulf states to defend themselves.

[Question] Weinberger said he is coming to the Gulf to discuss how the United States will help in preserving Gulf security. Do you not think this contradicts your slogan that Gulf security is the responsibility of its sons?

[Shaykh Muhammad] I again talk about reply to statements. We in the GCC -- since the first moment of the GCC -- said the responsibility for Gulf security and defense is that of its states. As for other statements, we have repeatedly answered them. I cannot prevent any official of any country from making statements, but I want to clarify our stand. This is the stand of the Gulf countries. Defending it is the responsibility of its sons alone and therefore we have started work on military and security coordination.

[Question in English] Minister, do you believe that the Gulf countries will support an application by Egypt for readmission to the Arab League? And was this question of relations with Egypt discussed either in the closed session of the council or in bilateral discussion between members?

[Shaykh Muhammad, in English] No, this matter has not been discussed because we think the situation in Egypt not yet reached a stage where you can be considered [as heard] because I think the Camp David process is going on one wheel even when the other wheel is not working on the Palestinian issue. And we think that what we said about Camp David is happening etc these arrangements. [as heard] and therefore there is no new element to rank this kind of discussion valid. But certainly the door is open for Egypt in the future, and I cannot predict what kind of stand Egypt will take. And if Egypt coordinates with the other Arab states, certainly it's a major country in the Arab world and the Arab League. But certainly, at this moment, I don't think there is a new element to make that to be discussed.

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTS ON GCC MEETING

LD071710 Kuwait KUNA in English 1543 GMT 7 Feb 82

[Test] Kuwait, 7 Feb (KUNA) -- "The GCC Al-Manamah meeting was a good opportunity to review recent incidents which threatened the safety and security of Bahrain," Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said on arrival here Sunday.

Shaykh Sabah who attended today's meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council ministerial conference in Al-Manamah said, "We have reviewed with concern, presentations made by Bahrain over the issue."

"We have also studied ideal and firm measures to curb such attempts," the deputy premier added.

The Ministerial Council reviewed the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and affirmed support to current efforts for a peaceful settlement.

The meeting discussed prevailing Arab developments and the Middle East cause in particular, Shaykh Sabah said, adding, GCC member states extended support to Syria in resisting Zionist expansion in the Golan and other Arab territories.

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SOVIET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LD081604 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1413 GMT 8 Feb 82

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Feb (KUNA) -- The Kuwaiti and Soviet Chambers of Commerce and Industry signed an agreement here today on bilateral economic, technical and trade cooperation. The agreement is meant to consolidate and expand relations and contacts between Kuwait and the Soviet Union in the economic, trade, scientific and technical spheres.

The agreement also provides for the two chambers to engage in a regular exchange of data in connection with economic legislation, to cooperate in the organization of scientific seminars and trade fairs, to exchange delegations and facilitate their visits, and to hold periodic meetings, at least once every 2 years.

The head of the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr 'Abd al-'Aziz as-Saqr, expressed the hope of a development of bilateral relations at the technical and industrial levels. He urged the Soviet Union to increase its exports of goods to the Kuwaiti market and called for an increased presence of Soviet industries in the Kuwaiti market. In this respect, he mentioned the decrease in trade exchanges between the two countries.

On his part, the deputy head of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Mukhitdinov, said that the signing of the cooperation agreement will reinforce relations between the two countries at the governmental and popular levels. He added that there are many possibilities which can be exploited between the two countries in order to develop scientific and economic relations.

OMAN

U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY ARRIVES FOR TALKS

EA091620 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus received at his majesty's office at (Alam) Palace, His Excellency U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. The meeting was attended by His Highness Sa'id Fahar ibn Taymur, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs; His Excellency Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im az-Zawawi, minister of state for foreign affairs; His Excellency 'Ali Majid al-Mamari, the first military aide to his majesty the sultan and head of the Palaces Bureau; and His Excellency John Countryman, U.S. ambassador accredited to the sultanate.

H.E. Caspar Weinberger, U.S. secretary of defense, arrived in the country at noon today for a 2-day official visit to the sultanate during which he will hold talks with the sultanate's officials on bilateral relations.

On arrival at Sib International Airport, his excellency the U.S. secretary of defense was received by His Highness Fahar ibn Taymur, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs; His Excellency Hassan Ihsan Nasib, the Defense Ministry under secretary and assistant chief of general staff; a number of officials from the Defense Ministry and his excellency the U.S. ambassador.

His Excellency Caspar Weinberger made a statement to a radio and television reporter expressing his great pleasure at visiting the Sultanate of Oman for the first time. He expressed his deep respect for His Majesty Sultan Qabus and the Omani people. The U.S. secretary of defense hailed the close cooperation between the United States of America and the sultanate. His excellency pointed out that the U.S. Government fully understood the region's defense requirements. In conclusion, he thanked His Highness Sa'id Fahar ibn Taymur, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, for the hospitality accorded him on arrival at the airport.

Meets Sultan Qabus

GF091700 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Muscat, 9 Feb (WAKH) -- Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman, has received U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, who arrived here today on a 2-day official visit.

The meeting was attended by Fahar ibn Taymur, Omani deputy prime minister for defense and security affairs, and Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im az-Zawahi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs.

Mr Weinberger made a statement in which he expressed his pleasure at his first visit to the Sultanate of Oman and his respect for Sultan Qabus and the Omani people. He also lauded the close cooperation between the United States and the Sultanate of Oman and noted that his country understands the region's defense needs.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER VIEWS GCC, PDRY THREAT

GF061716 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1354 GMT 6 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Muscat, 6 Feb -- Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Bu Sa'id, Omani deputy prime minister for legal affairs, has said that the aims of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] is to deepen the ties that exist among GCC countries and to develop coordination and cooperation among them in various fields.

In an interview with the Omani weekly AL-'AQIDAH he said that the establishment of the GCC is a great gain for the countries of the area and its people as has provided a suitable formula for collective regional cooperation that coordinates the efforts of these countries and opens to them wider vistas of joint action in various spheres.

Declaring his country's support for the Saudi plan, the Omani deputy prime minister for legal affairs declared: The eight points of the plan are an expression of a number of principles and resolutions. The plan provides an objective formula for a just, comprehensive and peaceful solution that aims to regain the occupied Arab territories, restore to the Palestinian people their legitimate rights and establish an independent Palestinian state. This is why Oman has supported the plan and urged that it be adopted and supported. In conclusion, Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Bu Sa'id accused the PDRY of plotting against Oman. Referring to the tripartite PDRY-Libyan-Ethiopian agreement he said: The agreement signed by the PDRY, Libya and Ethiopia is based on a specific ideology and special relationship that links these countries to the Soviet Union's strategy. The agreement entails a threat to the region's security and stability and is thus a new proof of the correctness of the Omani view on Soviet ambitions in the area and on the direct role that is being played by the Aden regime as an instrument in achieving these ambitions.

SAUDI ARABIA

DEFENSE MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON CURRENT ISSUES

PM051309 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 5 Feb 82 pp 12-15

[Huda al-Husayni interview with Minister of Defense and Aviation Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud on 28 January in Riyadh: "We Have Prepared the Consultative Council Plan; Our Relations With the Arab States Are Balanced"]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: Despite all the explanations you have given regarding the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], wouldn't you say it is a regional alliance? It is as if you want it to be an alternative to the Arab League.

Sultan Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: The Gulf grouping idea is a popular one and stems from a popular will. Neither time nor disputes can divide the people of the Gulf and their interests. It is because we want to support and strengthen the Arab League that we advocate agreement and coordination among the group of states. It is not a military bloc against anyone but rather a repudiation of the claim that there is vacuum in the Gulf states and that some power should fill it, be it a superpower or a number of friendly or unfriendly states.

For these reasons and in response to the wishes and basic interests of our people, we decided that this grouping was necessary, as an expression of the leaders' respect for the people and as a way of warding off any ideas from outside the Arab nation about filling the Gulf security vacuum.

I would like to stress here that this cooperation and coordination and the presence of a high command council are not exclusively restricted to the military aspect. In fact, the GCC constitution approved in Abu Dhabi contained no clauses about security and military affairs. However, when the meetings of Gulf leaders and the ministerial council began and when the people in the Gulf states began to call for love and friendship to prevail among them and for the so-called vacuum to be filled, the Gulf states decided they should establish military cooperation and coordination to protect development, investment and friendly relations among the peoples of the region. So the chiefs of staff, the military specialists, met and studied Gulf security affairs, and their meeting was followed by a defense ministers conference to examine the studies made in this connection. They all agreed that their strength and the growth of this strength -- in the sense that each Gulf state builds up its own strength from within -- add strength to the Arab nation. Ours is a force for peace in the region, not for aggression. It supports the Arab League Charter and it supports joint defense in accordance with the Arab League constitution and rules. It is also an integral part of the Arab nation, which means that it is even more than a military, strategic and economic power.

AL-HAWADITH: Despite all these assurances, some people still claim that Saudi Arabia is extremely enthusiastic about this council, because you dream about setting up a future so-called "united Arab Gulf kingdom" under Saudi leadership.

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: The truth is that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is for unity. In the past, when the Arabian Peninsula itself was divided and when some parts of its were under the yoke of Italian and Turkish imperialism, King 'Abd al-'Aziz united the peninsula on the basis of religion, language and blood. It became one state and one people. That was 80 years ago. This is what we believe in. We advocate the unity of all the Arab nation, not just the Gulf states.

As regards what is being said about the Gulf states, those people are trying to fish in troubled waters. It is beneath the Gulf states to accept or dream about such a thing.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an integral part of the Gulf states and the Gulf states constitute an integral part of the Arab nation. We all believe in the Arab League umbrella. As you know, there is a European Common Market, but does this mean that the European states are all merged into one state? Not at all. I repeat that we had noticed that the absence of clear agreements on the investment of funds and use of manpower affected the people's interests adversely. In one Gulf area or another there may be raw materials, minerals and young people seeking work but finding little scope for that because of geographical limitations or lack of funds. This is why we now believe we complement one another, but we are not a bloc and we cannot be politically against the Arab or Islamic worlds. We believe in comprehensive Arab unity, not in restricted unity. All our aspirations are for comprehensive Arab unity under the tolerant Islamic law, without which the Arabs will never triumph, regain their rights or command the respect of the world.

They can achieve these goals only if they follow Allah's religion, do their Islamic duties and apply the Islamic law in their personal and social affairs.

AL-HAWADITH: You have repeatedly stressed that this is an alliance for peace. What will be your position if some other state threatens you?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: Then we will stand as one state.

AL-HAWADITH: Iran has threatened you and has warned you against concluding security agreements. These threats were made by the Iranian foreign minister. The Iranian president said he would never allow one shot to be fired in "the Persian Gulf" as he called it. He threatened to destroy the oil states. What is your comment on this?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: We, at any rate, consider Iran and its people to be a fraternal Islamic state and people. If some Iranian leaders are expressing haphazard, uncalculated views, we are not prepared to reply to such unstudied views that are not based on facts. As far as we Gulf states are concerned, we consider Iran to be a friend. A friend remains a friend unless he behaves like an enemy. We believe all the Gulf states feel friendly sentiments toward Iran and wish it stability and prosperity. We only wish that the current Iraqi-Iranian war will come to an end, and that Iraq will be given its legitimate and just human and territorial rights in accordance with the UN Charter, so that good relations will be restored to the best level between all the Arab states, including the Gulf states, and the Iranian state.

Al-HAWADITH; Why is Iran opposed to a cease-fire?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: If we speak clearly about this issue we might jeopardize the good efforts being made by the Islamic summit conferences, the nonaligned states and the UN secretary general. We will just say that we hope the brothers will agree to stop fighting and sit together around a table without either side thinking about usurping the rights of the others. Anyway, when two states get together any time or place, they are bound to find an honorable solution that will safeguard the sovereignty and dignity of both.

AL-HAWADITH: It has been claimed that the Saudi Air Force intercepted the Iranian planes which flew over Kuwait and bombed oil installations. How true is this?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: It is not true at all. The Iranian planes did not fly over Saudi territory. Saudi Arabia never allows planes to cross with the aim of invading another country, so how could it allow such a thing when the country in question is a fraternal state or a neighbor?

Anyway, nothing of this sort happened. These are all rumors meant to create confusion.

AL-HAWADITH: What was the message conveyed by Prince Bandar ibn Sultan to U.S. Secretary of State Haig when they met in Geneva a few days ago?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: There was no message. General Haig learned that Air Force Major Bandar ibn Sultan had some rather difficult back surgery in the United States. As a friend of Saudi Arabia, General Haig inquired about the health of Bandar ibn Sultan, who happened to be recuperating in Geneva when General Haig was there for his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko. As Saudis we appreciate this attitude. In Geneva General Haig asked about Bandar ibn Sultan and visited and greeted him within the framework of a human relationship only. There was no message and there were no talks. In his military and official capacity pilot Bandar ibn Sultan is not empowered to say anything to General Haig or any other official under any circumstances.

AL-HAWADITH: The United States has announced that Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger will visit Saudi Arabia for 7 to 10 days. What is behind this visit? Also, the French defense minister is due in the kingdom the day after tomorrow. Is his visit a confirmation of your wish to diversify the source of arms, or is it related to French President Mitterrand's visit to Israel? And finally, what is the latest about the question of your purchase of German Leopard tanks?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: Thank you very much for this question. I hope the answer will be adequate. As far as the French defense minister is concerned, France is a friendly state and we import arms from it. Our relations with it have been very good for a long time, to be specific, since 1968 when we began to conclude arms deals with it. Seven years ago the Saudi and French defense ministers agreed to form what was called a "follow-up" joint committee to meet once every 6 months in Riyadh or Paris to study production developments and arms improvements and follow up the implementation of the projects agreed by the two countries. It was then decided that the defense ministers would meet once a year. The meeting to be held in 2 days' time is another in the series of meetings held over past years.

Since the French defense minister is a new minister, he has expressed a desire to visit the kingdom and see for himself the cooperation and efforts made in this respect. We have not sensed any hesitation on the part of France on the question of arming the kingdom and providing it with all it can obsorb.

As regards the U.S. secretary of defense, his predecessor Defense Secretary Brown visited Saudi Arabia 2 years ago. President Carter's secretary of defense and I actually met in Geneva some 16 months ago. He and I, as Saudi minister of defense, held lengthy talks which were concluded with the U.S. offer to sell Saudi Arabia the AWACS planes. Saudi Arabia expressed a wish to purchase the most modern advanced U.S. weapons to strengthen our air and land forces. We agreed that the Saudi minister would visit the United States after the elections and thus return the U.S. secretary's visit. However, circumstances precluded that. I think AL-HAWADITH reported more than any other magazine on this. Against the background of the congressional attitude on the AWACS deal and the F-15 aircraft modification, I found it difficult to make that visit. However, now that the deal has been approved and the kingdom's dignity preserved, thanks to the efforts of U.S. President Reagan, we have concluded that we cannot turn down the U.S. defense secretary's request to visit the kingdom, which was a very good initiative. So he will be arriving in a week's time, on 6 February. The only purpose of the visit is to make our acquaintance -- we do not know each other -- and to reaffirm the U.S. friendship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia -- friendship based on equality not in size, because we do not claim to be big in size, but in sovereignty and independence.

There is nothing more to prevent the U.S. secretary of defense from visiting Saudi Arabia and, like his predecessors, seeing for himself the Saudi Armed Forces as they really are, not as they are portrayed by the enemy media, whether Zionist or otherwise.

AL-HAWADITH: How do they portray the armed forces?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: They used to claim that the Saudi Armed Forces could not absorb the F-15 aircraft, the AWACS or similar equipment and land and sea weapons.

Anyway, the U.S. defense secretary's visit is just a goodwill visit reflecting the continuation of unblemished cooperation, with no special implications. No foreigner, whoever he may be, will have a foothold in the kingdom. We respect the U.S. secretary of defense, first for himself and second for his country.

AL-HAWADITH: Did the cancellation of his visit to Israel after it annexed the Golan Heights have any effect?

Sultan ibn 'abd al-'Aziz: In international relations, stress should be on good relations with all friendly states so that these relations may reflect positively on the cause.

AL-HAWADITH: Will he not try to persuade Saudi Arabia to buy new types of weapons?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: Well, if he offers us weapons more sophisticated than what we already have, we will undoubtedly buy. This is important to us; but before we start buying and stockpiling we must know how and to what extent we can absorb these weapons. We are responsible to the people. We are not a dictatorship. The Saudi people's absolute faith in their leadership makes us think responsibly about everything that might uphold the dignity of the people and, consequently, reassure them about their leadership and about the way funds are spent. So, whatever arms we stockpile but cannot absorb are considered by us to be an unhealthy sign, not a sign of good health and strength.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the German tanks?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: First of all, we did not officially place an order with Germany. It has been our custom not to turn down any offer by any state to supply us with arms or technical knowhow if we need and want them. The German offer was made cordially by some German personalities. We told them that we would be delighted to purchase advanced Leopard tanks. We left it to them to determine the method and time of sale because, like all enlightened people, we are aware of the realities and problems of Germany.

I wish to emphasize, however, that the U.S.- and French-made tanks that we already have are technically no less advanced than the German Leopard tanks. In fact they are even better, according to experts.

AL-HAWADITH: Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir has stated that the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai will never be repeated. What does this statement indicate? Do you think that Israel will withdraw from Sinai on schedule?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: What interests me here is Arab solidarity. If the Arabs achieve solidarity, as we hope they will soon with God's help, we should not pay much attention to what is said by those who want the Arab nation to be divided. It is wrong to do so. We cannot expect our enemy to say better things than he has been saying.

We want the Arab world to prove to friend and foe that we are one nation. Our usurped rights cannot be restored except through our solidarity and realization of our common interests. This is what all the Arab leaders are working for under the canopy of the Arab League.

AL-HAWADITH: When will the Arabs prove their solidarity?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: With God's help, nothing is impossible. My feeling is that Arab solidarity does exist. In all the Arab world's wars the Arabs have rallied and joined hands at the last moment. This of course does not solve problems. Unless there is prior solidarity and planning to deal with all the problems afflicting the Arab nation and all the ambitions of world Zionism, the West or the East, nothing can be solved. We pray God Almighty that there will be a unity of purpose and views.

AL-HAWADITH: If the Arabs are incapable of achieving solidarity and agreement now, as proved in Fes, how can you be optimistic that they will achieve solidarity in times of war, for example?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: Unlike some others, I believe that the Fes conference did not fail. The Fes shock will make the Arab people realize what the failure of any future Arab summit conference would mean. This kind of awareness only emerges in time of difficulty. Therefore, we hope that the Arab leaders attending the forthcoming Arab summit conference, for which no date has been set yet, will live up to their responsibilities.

AL-HAWADITH: Is Saudi Arabia mediating to bring the views of the various Arab states closer together? Is it, for example, mediating between Syria and Jordan and Syria and Iraq?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: The policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the late Kings 'Abd al-'Aziz, Sa'ud and Faysal and now under His Majesty King Khalid and Crown Prince Fahd was and is based on bridging the gaps in Arab views. The kingdom also tries not to have any problems with any Arab state, so that what it says will be well received. However, if efforts are being made, they are not being made exclusively by Saudi Arabic in isolation from its other Arab brothers. At any rate, the kingdom will never cease to use its good offices with the Arab leaders to promote Arab accord.

AL-HAWADITH: Your Highness, you have said that the kingdom's relations with all the Arabs are good, but some people say that Saudi Arabic has a certain weakness in relation to Syria.

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: Well, by God, these are all opinions and interpretations. Some say that Saudi Arabia has a certain weakness when it is dealing with the enemies of Syria. we maintain balanced, fraternal relations. We do not believe in violence against any Arab state, because violence breeds weakness.

AL-HAWADITH: Israeli General Eytan has said that if a war broke out over the Golan Heights, it would be the last war in the Middle East. Observers and analysts say that Israel can achieve its objectives. Is this true?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: It might be the last war as far as Israel is concerned, because if one becomes too arrogant he is bound to fall to the ground.

AL-HAWADITH: You said earlier that the situation was moving toward war, that you would not surrender to the will of Begin and, as a Saudi leader, you said what is taken by force can only be regained by force. Is this a call for a holy Jihad, and has Saudi Arabia decided to actually become a confrontation state?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: First of all, I believe that the entire Arab nation is a confrontation state against Israel. There is confrontation on the common borders and there is confrontation of feelings and blood in common with the states on the borders. The entire Arab nation is a state in confrontation with Israel until Israel returns to the Arabs, and especially the Palestinians, their legitimate rights and until it hands over the territories usurped from the Arab nation. As for force and the assertion that what is taken by force can only be regained by force, I say that the real power is the power of faith in God Almighty. I want to stress once again that unless we as an Arab nation believe in Islam as a religion and a beacon, we will never be able to stand on our own feet. Almighty God chose Islam for the nation and chose Muhammad ibn 'Abdallah as the last of the prophets, thus completing the missions of the prophets and messengers Ibrahim al-Khalil, peace be upon him, Moses, Jesus and all the others. This is why I say that unless the Arab nation has a religion to protect and shield it, it will never be powerful. No power is stronger than the power of faith.

AL-HAWADITH: But Islam is strongly present in the Arab nation, and the Arabs take shelter under it.

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: What is important is not the existence of religion but adherence to it and the guidance it provides. God Almighty says in the holy Koran: Those who do not rule by God's law are sinful and infidel.

We do not believe that the Arab world should be ruled by anything but God's law. Efforts should be made in this connection and hearts should be cleansed and the road thoroughly cleared for all Muslims, so that Almighty God will help us and protect believers. God said: Support God and he will support you.

This is why we should go back to the days of the prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, and propagate the Islamic call. What places did the Arabs and Muslims reach in those old days? They reached Europe, India, Japan and even China. Five years ago the Islamic call began to grow unbelievably. We hope that it will grow in all parts of the world, including the American Continent, the Soviet Union and China. We hope it will grow in Asia, Africa, Europe and Canada, where Islamic organizations and young Muslims have begun to strengthen and preach their religion. Christian young people have begun to return to their religion. We believe in Jesus and Moses. The young are beginning to turn to their religion and the values of the Bible and the Torah, as indeed they should. The young are turning to Islam, whose prophet was the last of all prophets.

AL-HAWADITH: Is Your Highness indirectly referring to what has happened in Egypt, as far as the assassination of President Anwar as-Sadat is concerned?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: I believe that Egypt is dear to all of us as people, nation and homeland. Therefore, please spare me any talk about the Egyptian leadership, past or present. All I hope is that Egypt will be, as it always was, a beacon and a source of strength for the Arab world.

AL-HAWADITH: It has been reported that Syria wants to sign a strategic security agreement with Moscow, similar to the now-abrogated U.S.-Israeli agreement. What is your opinion?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: I believe that Syria is perhaps very eager for the Arab nation not to be endangered, whether the danger is communist or otherwise. There are Arab summit conferences and there is the Arab League. Any action outside the framework of the Arab countries not agreed to in the Arab League is out of the question.

AL-HAWADITH: It has been reported that, when Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad visited you, the Saudi leadership asked him to mediate with a view to ending the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: First of all, we did not ask; neither did he refuse. Therefore, this report is unfounded.

AL-HAWADITH: What messages did you ask President al-Asad to convey to the Soviet Union and Iran?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: I do not think we gave President al-Asad any messages for the Soviet Union or Iran. He is part of us, and we are part of him. He was not given any messages. Syria did not say that it was conveying anything from the kingdom.

AL-HAWADITH: Your Highness, do you believe that Lebanon is approaching a phase of more trouble, especially since the date of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai is drawing nearer, and bearing in mind the annexation of the Golan Heights? How do you see the future of the Lebanese question?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: My personal opinion is that Lebanon will again be secure and independent, God willing, whatever the circumstances. I still believe that only the Lebanese people can put things right in Lebanon. If all groups and factions are convinced an end should be put to the divisions and problems of Lebanon, then everything will be settled. For Lebanon to call on anyone outside Lebanon to solve its problems would not help solve these problems.

AL-HAWADITH: There is no longer any estrangement among the Lebanese population. It is said the cause of the trouble is foreign.

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: I have told you what I believe. Even if there is interference, as claimed or believed, such interference will end when the Lebanese people unite. When the foreign side sees that nobody in Lebanon is receptive to it and its influence, then no one will be able to interfere in Lebanese affairs, except to do good.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you think there will be more trouble in Lebanon because of Sinai and the Golan Heights?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: I hope not. Anyway, all that has been said about the annexation of the Golan Heights is rejected by or unacceptable to the Arab nation. The Golan Heights are an integral part of Syria. Therefore, it is difficult to accept what our enemy wants.

AL-HAWADITH: Now we come to the Saudi initiative. Some say the initiative was made after consultation with Washington. Others say it was meant to complement Camp David. What is your opinion? And to what extent are you prepared to back this initiative, which the Palestinians now regard as an Arab initiative?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: We wish the United States had supported the initiative. The United States was the first to reject and openly fight the initiative. Furthermore, we do not always give our views -- or rather our views are not, under any circumstances, inspired by foreign states. The truth is the initiative was a Saudi effort. It emerged as a result of what has become of the Camp David agreements and as result of the Arab rejection of these agreements. For years there was no plan aimed at serving Arab interests and regaining their rights. So the initiative was a Saudi effort. It was submitted to the Arab summit conference. It is under discussion, and it has now become an Arab plan. If the Arabs wish to carry it out with some modification, that is their business. Saudi Arabia will certainly not oppose the Arabs and, as his highness the crown prince said at the Fes summit conference, Saudi Arabia will not insist on even one letter in the plan. Saudi Arabia even asked that the plan be withdrawn if it was going to be an obstacle or would cast doubt on Arab rapprochment; but the Arab states at the conference refused to have the plan withdrawn, and therefore it is now the property of the Arab League.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that, had the Arabs reached agreement regarding the initiative at the Fes conference, Israel would not have dared to annex the Golan Heights?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: I still refuse to recognize the annexation of the Golan Heights. We do not accept it. The entire Arab nation does not accept it. Approval of the [Saudi] plan would have served Arab interests. We initiated the plan, and we still believe that it is in the Arab interests. As for the desire to modify it or add new clauses to it, this is a matter for the Arab nation to decide.

AL-HAWADITH: Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has expressed his willingness to hold direct negotiations with U.S. officials, provided such negotiations guarantee Palestinian rights. Is Saudi Arabia prepared to support moves toward such meetings?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: Saudi Arabia and Abu 'Ammar are one and the same party. Saudi Arabia cannot therefore be a mediator between Abu 'Ammar and the United States.

AL-HAWADITH: After the holy mosque incident you said you would set up a consultative council. What has become of this idea?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: There already is a consultative council. When His Majesty King Khalid assumed power it was decided to develop the council. Before the death of King Faysal, the kingdom was studying ways of doing that. However, development of the council in accordance with the district system and in keeping with administrative and intellectual progress has nothing to do with the holy mosque incident. Our people expect us to serve their interests. This is why we took time to study the matter realistically and pragmatically. I believe the studies are almost complete and preparations are being made for the implementation of the plan.

AL-HAWADITH: Is the Saudi National Guard considered the second line of defense after the regular Saudi Army?

Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: Others do not understand us in Saudi Arabia. Everyone who carries arms in the kingdom comes under the armed forces. The tasks of the national guard are very important. Second Deputy Prime Minister His Highness Brother 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz is in charge of training and organizing to serve the Arab nation, especially Saudi Arabia.

So, the Saudi Arabian Army -- sea, land and air forces -- is an integral part of the national guard and the national guard is an integral part of the armed forces. All steps, exercises, relations and plans are geared to serve the religion first and the homeland second.

WEINBERGER, PRINCE SULTAN HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE

LD091406 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 9 Feb (SPA) -- Mr Caspar Weinberger, U.S. secretary of defense, this morning left Dhahran after a 3-day visit to Saudi Arabia. His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, defense and aviation minister, headed those who saw off the U.S. secretary of defense at Dhahran Airport. Prince 'Abd al-Muhsin ibn (Zlawi), governor of the eastern region, Major General 'Ali al-Buri, commander of the eastern region, officers of the armed forces, and senior civilian and military officials were also at the airport to see him off.

Prince Sultan and Mr. Weinberger held a press conference in which they dealt with the various topics and talks held between the Saudi and American sides, the present situation in the Middle East and cooperation between the two countries.

At the press conference Prince Sultan and Mr Weinberger spoke about the results of the Saudi-American talks and praised the traditional relations and cooperation between the two friendly countries. Prince Sultan expressed the hope that visits between officials of the two countries will continue. He stressed that relations between the kingdom and the United States are not restricted only to military cooperation, but also dealt with important technical and economic spheres. He expressed the hope that this old, established and constructive friendship between the two countries will continue in the service of peace and humanity.

In the course of his reply to a question concerning Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights and the U.S. stand, Prince Sultan expressed the hope that the U.S. administration will adopt a firm posture against the unjust Israeli measures and stupidities based on its responsibility as a major power concerned with maintaining peace, and stemming from its strong relations with Israel.

In answer to a question on the task of the joint committee set up by the two sides, and whether the issues of the Gulf Cooperation Council were discussed during the meetings, and whether the United States intends to help the other Gulf states militarily the U.S. secretary of defense said that the committee will follow up existing work and projects between the two countries, and will deal with any matters that come within its jurisdiction. He made it clear that he agreed wtih Prince Sultan that they cochaired this committee and that they agreed to meet twice every year at venues to be agreed on at a later date. Assistants of both sides will meet regularly more often to discuss various military projects of interest to both countries. Regarding the Gulf Cooperation Council states the U.S. secretary of defense said that the United States is assisting the Gulf states economically and militarily and will continue to extend this assistance if these states wish.

He said that another subject discussed during the meetings was the tribulations of the Afghan people, and we agreed that the freedom strugglers there have a difficult task in resisting the occupier. America and Saudi Arabia share the same feeling that the people of Afghanistan are a courageous people and deserve assistance.

Concerning the same issue, Prince Sultan said that there was no agreement regarding actions by the two states toward the mujahidin inside Afghanistan; however, discussions did revolve around the refugees, who deserve care from a humane aspect and who are considered repressed because they left their country. Saudi Arabia and its people are giving assistance to this group, which has been denied its homeland and deserves every assistance.

Regarding a question about the role played by America in industrial relations between the two friendly countries, whether in the sphere of joint Saudi-U.S. cooperation or with regard to current Arab issues, Prince Sultan said: There is cooperation between Saudi Arabia and the United States in the technical spheres which provides for industrial development, thus allowing Saudi Arabia to forge its way ahead industrially; moreover, Saudi Arabia receives modern expertise and technology from all states which have a role in advanced industry, primarily the United States. With regard to cooperation in Arab issues, as everyone knows, there is an international organization, namely, the United Nations, and we cooperate with the United States under the aegis of always serving peace and humanity, a matter sought after by the United Nations and the two member states of this international organization.

Prince Sultan Views Talks

LD091536 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, defense and aviation minister, stressed that the nature of the talks he held with U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, were to discuss, follow-up and keep an eye on projects agreed on between the two countries to avoid any discrepancies [taqsir] in some projects, and also to avoid problems with some purchases. The defense and aviation minister, in a statement to SPA, described the Saudi-American talks as good and fine, since the American side expressed its readiness to deal with any delays connected with these projects.

With regard to whether Prince Sultan, in his discussion with the U.S. secretary of defense, covered the subject of supplying the kingdom with further sophisticated weapons, his royal highness explained that the kingdom does not purchase sophisticated weapons from America or any other country -- and foremost, the kingdom does not ask for weapons, any weapon -- unless it has the ability to absorb these weapons.

MUBARAK DETAILS DISCUSSIONS FROM RECENT TOUR

NC091410 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has announced that he asked U.S. President Ronald Reagan for the United States to start a direct dialogue with the Palestinians.

He added: I literally told President Reagan that the Middle East problem will not be resolved unless the Palestinian problem is solved because, as everyone knows, this problem is the crux of the conflict, and there will be no stability in the region if this problem is not solved.

This came in statements made by President Husni Mubarak to the chairmen of the Board of Directors of the press institutions and the chief editors upon his return to Egypt yesterday following his tour of six European countries and the United States of America.

President Mubarak went on to say: I frankly explained to President Reagan Egypt's stance vis-a-vis all the topics that were raised. For instance, I discussed with him the ruckus that was raised by the U.S. information media over the Soviet experts I requested to come to Egypt. I told him that we would need those 66 experts because there is equipment in the iron and steel factories as well as the aluminum factory in Naja' Hammadi which has yet to be assembled. In accordance with the import contracts, Soviet experts must supervise the assembly of this equipment. I also told him that this is only natural since Egypt is in dire need of these experts.

The president added: I also explained to President Reagan the issue raised over the French Mirage deal. I told him that this is an old deal and noted that Egypt had decided to diversify the sources of weapons. I also explained to him that it was the United States that had cancelled the F-5 deal and that the Egyptian forces have started complaining of a lack of Soviet-imported spare parts and equipment. Furthermore, the French gave us great facilities to carry the deal through. Therefore, it would not have been logical to cancel the deal after all that. I also explained to the U.S. President that if the U.S. side adheres to handing over arms and equipment in accordance with the timetable requested by Egypt, there would be no need to buy arms from any other source.

The president said: I have explained to the U.S. President that the Arab Republic of Egypt is, beyond any doubt, a nonaligned state. Indeed, it is one of the three founders of the Nonaligned Movement. This will always be Egypt's policy and Egypt adheres to this policy, particularly now more than at any time before. Egypt is not a party to any pacts and it never will be; Egypt will not agree to giving any bases to anyone. We are prepared to give facilities to the U.S. side when there is a specific reason acceptable to Egypt.

President Mubarak said: I have outlined to President Reagan the situation in the area, particularly the situation in the Sudan, Somalia and the Sultanate of Oman. I have asked the U.S. President to help these states. I explained to him that Sudan is in need of important and urgent assistance. I told him that the question was not one of bases here or there but assistance to the friends of the United States to enable them to defend themselves.

The president said: I discussed the autonomy negotiations with President Reagan and his advisers. I told him that Egypt cannot give up something it does not possess. I explained everything to him that is related to the Palestine question, and I believe that the U.S. side understood our viewpoint.

President Mubarak said his trip was immensely successful in the realms of economic and military cooperation. He added that, with regard to the economic field, Egypt has so far received about $8.8 billion in U.S. loans -- of which $6.6 billion have been utilized and $2.2 billion have not. He added that in the past, Egypt used to study each project separately. These projects used to be subsequently studied by the American side, which had the right to reject them if the feasibility studies pertaining to these projects were unsound according to the U.S. point of view.

This used to take a long time and, therefore, the Egyptian side requested that these investments be directed to the Egyptian sectors and not to separate projects and that the Egyptian side would reserve the right to move from one project to another within the limits of the amount earmarked for that sector. Thus, the Egyptian side would be able to make progress in specified projects in 1982 -- projects which the Egyptian side deemed to have priority so that this year we can benefit from the $2.2 billion. The president also announced that the U.S. side has promised to hand over the war equipment as specified by the timetable of the Egyptian military.

The president said that the delivery of F-16 aircraft to Egypt will begin in March and that the U.S. side has agreed to increase, effective with the 1983 budget, the amount of U.S. aid to $1.3 billion, including $400 million in the form of a grant. The sum allocated in this year's budget was $900 million, including $200 million as a grant.

At the end of the meeting, the president spoke about the domestic situation and the rumors that are being spread. He said: I will not initiate or take any extraordinary action and I will not resort to any extraordinary measures, whatever the circumstances may be. However, I affirm that my first and ultimate goal is the welfare of the 44 million Egyptians. For these people, I want food and homes. All the other things called for by some people are of no concern to me.

RADIO COMMENTARY CITES ACHIEVEMENTS FROM TOUR

NC091430 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: "President Mubarak's trip has realized tangible achievements for Egypt, the Arab area and the people of Palestine"]

[Text] If the criterion for measuring any action or effort is the extent of positive results and achievements such an action realizes, then the working trip which President Mubarak undertook to Italy, the Vatican, France, the United States, Britain, Germany and a quick meeting in Austria, has achieved outstanding success.

Foremost among the important achievements accomplished during the tour is, perhaps, the establishment of a complete identity of views between Egypt and the EC states the president visited in relation to the crux of the Middle East problem -- namely, the Palestinian issue. A solution must be found to the Palestinian issue in order to establish peace in the region -- a matter which was clearly manifested in the statements made by the British and French Governments about the need for resolving the Palestinian issue as well as the West German chancellor's declaration that there is no alternative to negotiations for resolving the Middle East problem. This completely conforms with Egypt's views in this respect.

Among the other tangible achievements accomplished during the tour has been the emphasis placed on European participation in the peace process through dialogue and consultations with the parties to the problem without political and economic pressure. Europe has good relations with both Israel and the United States. By playing a more active role with regard to Israel and the United States, Europe can find a method for holding a dialogue on mutual recognition between the two parties to the problem -- the Palestinians and the Israelis -- preparatory to meetings and negotiations leading to understanding and a peace agreement.

Among other achievements accomplished during the trip has been the accentuation of Egypt's strong independent identity and the assertion of the importance of its role in any endeavor for the establishment of peace in the area. This was clearly illustrated in the statement made by U.S. President Reagan that the United States deals with Egypt on an equal footing. This naturally is tantamount to a reply to those who doubt the independence of the Egyptian role and Egyptian policy.

The trip has even gone beyond these things to include discussions for solving certain internal issues in Egypt. The discussions in the various capitals dealt with economic and military matters. The success of the discussions is represented by the continuation of U.S. economic aid to Egypt. Indeed, by increasing the volume of this aid and by allowing Cairo flexibility in using the loans as well as by the participation of U.S. capital in Egyptian projects, it has been emphasized that the economic open-door policy would continue so as to attract capital for investment in Egypt.

As for the military aspect, the discussions held during the working tour focused on the diversification of the sources of arms. This matter was particularly discussed in France, Britain and the United States.

Therefore, we can say without exaggeration that President Mubarak's trip has produced positive results and achieved great success not only for the benefit of Egypt but also for the benefit of the states of the entire Arab area, particularly in relation to the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

AL-AKHBAR VIEWS MIDDLE EAST 'AT CROSSROADS'

NC092228 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA) -- The Cairo newspaper AL-AKHBAR affirms that the Middle East now stands at a crossroads and that danger tips the scale, according to political evaluations in the area. The paper says that Egypt has understood and realized this fact. For this reason, during his recent tour President Husni Mubarak focused his talks with officials in the European states and the United States on the Middle East situation and on the need for serious efforts to establish peace in the area.

In its Wednesday commentary, the paper says that Egypt's viewpoint on this was the subject of understanding and conviction by U.S. and European officials. But it is not only a matter of convincing the Americans and the Europeans, there is also the need for an initiative by the states of the region, particularly the Arab states which have an interest in achieving peace.

The paper affirms that these states which have an interest in peace have a primary responsibility to establish it. The situation is so dangerous that it requires an urgent initiative, serious work and a genuine commitment as well the need to view the issue with all its aspects as their own issue and not as somebody else's.

AL-JUMIHURIYAH CALLS FOR U.S.-PLO DIALOGUE

NC092257 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2157 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA) -- AL-JUMHURIYAH says that President Husni Mubarak's call to U.S. President Reagan on the need to start a direct dialogue between the United States and the Palestinians does not mean that we are calling on the United States to punish Israel. We are calling on it to at least extend the bridges of dialogue to the Palestinians, who have legitimate rights.

The paper adds that in its capacity as a big power, the United States must shoulder a big responsibility in safeguarding and endorsing the principles of the international community, foremost of which is preventing aggression and punishing the aggressor so that he does not escape with the fruits of his aggression.

In its editorial on Wednesday, AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that the United States is a party to the Middle East problem, and the basis of this problem is the Palestinian issue. It is a full partner in the peace process in its capacity as the lifeline to Israel, which is occupying Arab land by the force of arms.

Concluding its article, the paper notes the need to benefit and learn from past events, which prove that it is impossible to solve a problem peacefully except through direct dialogue among the parties concerned.

AL-AHRAM CONSIDERS ISRAELI REACTION TO UN MOVE

NC092248 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA) -- The Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM has expressed its surprise at Israel's attitude toward the recent UN General Assembly resolution that called on the UN member states to boycott Israel for its refusal to respond to the Security Council's call on it to cancel its decision to annex the Golan.

In its 10 February commentary, the paper says it is a flagrant political anomaly for Israel to consider the General Assembly resolution against it on the Golan issue as null and void and not to consider its decision to annex the Golan as equally null and void.

The paper says that it was easy for the Israeli Government to announce in its statement that it considers the General Assembly resolution as nonexistent so long as its historical view of UN resolutions and particularly of the General Assembly is that of pieces of paper which make no difference.

Concluding its article, the paper asks: If the General Assembly resolution has angered Israel to this extent, considering it hostile, what is the situation with regard to the annexation itself, and what word, according to this criterion, is appropriate in Israel's opinion?

CULTURAL MINISTER DEPARTS FOR TEL AVIV TALKS

NC101006 Cairo MENA in English 0955 GMT 10 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA) -- 'Abd al-Hamid Radwan, state minister for culture, left here this morning for Tel Aviv for a two-day visit to Israel.

Radwan will confer with his Israeli counterpart on means of fostering cultural exchange between the two countries and exchanging the artistic teams and exhibitions during the current year.

MUBARAK DENIES ANY FORM OF SOVIET CONTACTS

NC092145 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2132 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak has asserted that there are no secret or nonsecret contacts with the Soviet Union.

This came in a statement by President Husni Mubarak to be published by the newspaper AL-AHRAM tomorrow, Wednesday.

AL-AHRAM SEES OMANI-EGYPTIAN TIES STRENGTHENED

NC092220 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2128 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA) -- In Wednesday's issue AL-AHRAM reports that an important statement will be issued in the Omani capital, Muscat, on Saturday concerning the consolidation of relations between Egypt and Oman through meetings that will take place on the highest level between the leaders of the two states.

President Husni Mubarak received the Omani ambassador to the United States in Washington and was handed an urgent message from Sultan Qabus. The president also received 'Umar az-Zawawi, the adviser to the sultan of Oman in London. Agreement was reached in this meeting to issue this statement on Saturday.

The paper has learned that the talks between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. President Reagan dealt with ways for the United States to support the Sultanate of Oman. This was within the framework of the means for the United States to strengthen its friends in the area militarily and economically, to prevent foreign incursions and interventions in the Middle East and to prevent or stop polarization attempts by the two superpowers which undermine the area's stability and security.

President Mubarak had asked for similar support for Sudan and Somalia during his two meetings with President Reagan and during his meeting with the members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

COURT SEEKS ACTION AGAINST AS-SADAT TRIAL WRITER

NC091942 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1607 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA) -- The Supreme Military Court continued at its session today to hear the defense pleas for the defendants in the case of the assassination of the late President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat.

The court asked the representative of the military prosecution to take the necessary legal action against the writer of an article published in OCTOBER magazine on 7 February 1982 regarding a statement on page 11 concerning the verdict in the case under consideration, in application of Article 187 of the Penal Code.

At the end of its session the court decided to resume its work tomorrow, Wednesday, to hear the rest of the defense pleas.

MUBARAK TO CHAIR NDP POLITICAL BUREAU MEETING

NC091447 Cairo MENA in English 1420 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA) -- The National Democratic Party politbureau will hold a meeting tomorrow under the party's leader President Husni Mubarak.

Kamal ash-Shadhili, the NDP organisational affairs secretary said that President Mubarak will expound the outcome of his tour of Italy, the Vatican, France, the United States, Britain, West Germany, and Austria and his talks with leaders of these countries.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 610

JN091806 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA) -- The military communique has stated that the Iraqi forces continue their advance on the Bostan front and that they will decisively settle the battle in accordance with set plans and at the appropriate time.

The military communique, issued by the Armed Forces General Command, has stated that all the Iraqi forces' activities in the Bostan front are very successful and effective and that the enemy forces have fled the battlefield leaving behind their dead and their weapons.

The communique pointed out that the enemy desperately tried to halt the Iraqi forces' advance last night and this morning and that the demented and ignorant enemy were repulsed leaving behind their dead and their weapons.

The communique stated that all day today Iraqi planes carried out fierce and intensive raids on enemy positions and concentrations in the southern sector of the operational theater, inflicting on the enemy more heavy losses in life and equipment. All the Iraqi planes returned safely to base.

The communique added that Iraqi helicopters carried out successful raids today on enemy military targets and positions scoring direct hits and inflicting on the enemy heavy losses in life and equipment. All Iraqi helicopters returned safely to base. The communique put the known enemy losses in the other operational sectors during the past 24 hours at 46 killed and 4 vehicles and 2 observation posts destroyed as well as a large number of wounded.

The communique stated that Iraqi forces attacked enemy positions and units in the Gilan-e Gharb area, struck enemy positions in the Nowsud area and also attacked enemy positions in the Shush area. The Iraqi forces carried out other activities in the Abadan, Mimak and Sumar areas. The following is the text of communique No 610:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse] God is great and dignity for glorious Iraq.

I. (Ash-Shayb)-Bostan sector: Our valiant armed forces continue their advance in the Bostan area toward the targets that had been set for them. They will inevitably reach these targets with God's help. The enemy desperately tried to halt the advance of the forces of justice and victory and to budge them from their positions during last night and this morning, 9 February. The attempts of the demented and ignorant enemy were completely foiled and the enemy fled the battlefield, humiliated and defeated, leaving behind its dead and weapons. Our valiant forces resumed their advance toward their targets to destroy the bastions of oppression and aggression from 0100 this morning until the issuance of this communique. All the activities on this front were very successful and effective. We are waiting to settle the battle decisively in accordance with set plans and at the appropriate time. We shall announce our losses and those of the enemy in this battle in subsequent communiques.

II. The results of the activities of our units in the other sectors are as follows:

A. Our units attacked enemy positions and units in the Gilan-e Gharb area killing 21 and destroying 1 vehicle.
B. Our forward units struck a number of enemy elements in the Nowsud area with all kinds of weapons, killing nine.

C. One of our forward units attacked enemy positions in the Shush area, killing four and destroying one observation post. The enemy also sustained many wounded.
D. Six were killed and two vehicles and one observation post were destroyed in the Abadan area.
E. Four were killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the Mimak area opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
F. Two were killed in the Sumar area.
G. All day today, our valiant planes continued their fierce and intensive raids on enemy positions and concentrations in the southern sector of the theater of operations, inflicting on the enemy more human and material losses. All our planes returned safely to base.
H. Our valiant helicopters carried out today successful raids on enemy military targets and positions in the southern sector of the theater of operations, scoring direct hits and inflicting on the enemy more heavy losses in life and equipment. All our helicopters returned safely to base.

Thus, the total known enemy losses amount to 46 killed and 4 vehicles and 2 observation posts destroyed as well as many wounded.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: six martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: one vehicle, one mortar and one excavator damaged.

GOVERNMENT SOURCE ON POW'S FAMILIES VISITS

JN091738 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1726 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA) -- A Foreign Ministry official spokesman said today that Iraq agrees to have Kuwait serve as a gathering station for the POW's families.

Responding to Rafsanjani's statements the day before yesterday, the spokesman told INA that Iraq is not attaching any strings to the exchange of visits of families of the Iraqi and Iranian POW's and that Iraq agrees to have Kuwait, in addition to Turkey, serve as a gathering station for these families.

The spokesman noticed that the Iranian side has been continuously creating difficulties to prevent the implementation of any measures for exchange visits of the POW's families. He asserted that Iraq had previously announced its readiness to accept any measures that would facilitate visits of the POW's families.

KDP FIGHTERS TO JOIN BATTLE AGAINST IRAN

JN051744 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Feb 82

[Text] Fighters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] have joined one of the training camps to obtain the honor of participating in the glorious battle of Saddam's Al-Qadisyah against the racist Persian enemy. The group of fighters includes the KDP secretary, the members of the Political Bureau, the members of the Central Committee, its senior cadres and a large number of our Kurdish people.

The fighters, who were granted the honor of participating in our just battle, expressed their great happiness for this chance to join the training camp to meet the homeland's call to maintain the spirit of victory and contribute to our honorable and holy battle until the racist Persian enemy recognizes our legitimate national rights in our land and waters.

The fighters reasserted their determination to offer their blood to defend the homeland's pride and the integrity of the Iraqi people, the Kurds, Arabs and other minorities who live as brothers under the glorious 17-30 July revolution under the leadership of militant President Saddam Husayn.

BAGHDAD BERATES IRAN'S CALL TO NONALIGNED GROUP

NC061348 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 0600 GMT 6 Feb 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear Ianian sisters and brothers, and dear listeners: The spokesman of Khomeyni's Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry has protested the holding of the nonaligned conference in Baghdad and has asked the members of the movement to refrain from participating in this conference. The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of Khomeyni's regime has claimed that since Iraq has aggressed against Iranian territory and violated the norms of the nonaligned nations, the nations of this movement should not participate in the conference to be held in Baghdad.

In order to assure Khomeyni's Islamic Republic that the nonaligned nations will participate in the Baghdad conference on the date already set and not heed the advice of Khomeyni's foreign minister, it is necessary for us to recall some points: First of all, the Iraqi Government has always respected international norms and regulations and abides by recognized international laws. Second, Iraq has always heeded the advice and resolutions issued by the conferences on nonaligned nations and has tried to follow this advice and implement those resolutions which fall within the framework of the principles and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement. Third, so far Khomeyni's regime has not heeded any international principles and regulations and has even foiled efforts by the nonaligned nations to end the war, and this at a time when Iraq has welcomed these efforts to establish peace between Iran and Iraq.

In view of these points and in light of the fact that Khomeyni's regime has topped its list of programs by intervening in the domestic affairs of other countries, such as its intervention in the domestic affairs of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, North Yemen and Kuwait, as well as the fact that the Tehran regime does not abide by any of the international principles and regulations and is isolated in today's world, this regime still calls on the world's nonaligned nations not to participate in the Baghdad conference. Had this proposal been voiced by a regime that believes in international principles there would be no argument. But a regime like Khomeyni's, which basically follows none of the internationally recognized rinciples and ignores decisions taken by world peace delegations, will gain nothing but disgrace by making such a proposal.

A regime that is facing great difficulty in sending delegations to other countries, with many countries even refusing to accept Khomeyni's delegations; a regime that has upset the stability of the region and has thrown down the gauntlet to the Muslim countries; a regime that has no other objective but to create chaos and sedition in Iran and in other Middle East countries; a regime that does not enjoy any popular support within the country; a regime that is now isolated in the world and has no respect among the Islamic countries -- this regime is now asking members of the Nonaligned Movement not to participate in the Baghdad conference. A regime affiliated with the superpowers and with international Zionism and which has undertaken to implement imperialist policies in the region will gain nothing but disgrace from this proposal, losing what little respect it does have and enraging the nonaligned countries of the world.

KURDISH RADIO SUMS UP PESHMERGA OPERATIONS

JN031330 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Revolution in Surani Kurdish 1515 GMT 3 Feb 82

[Text] The military office of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] has issued a military statement summing up peshmerga operations in the last 3 months of 1981. The text of the statement follows:

I. There were 31 operations in October 1981 during which the enemy lost the following:

A. In personnel: 95 killed, 121 wounded and 12 captured.
B. In equipment: One Zil military vehicle, one personnel carrier and another vehicle were destroyed. The peshmerga seized medicines and equipment from the following clinics and hospitals in As-Sulaymaniyah: Haji Awa, Mamustayan, Khabbat, Iskan and the maternity hospital.
C. The peshmerga gained the following: 17 Kalashnikov rifles, 2 (Kitcha) rifles, 1 RPG launcher, 1 Degtyarev machinegun, 1 (Star) revolver and (No 9 device).
D. Our losses: two martyrs and five wounded.

II. The peshmerga operations in November amounted to 44, during which enemy losses were as follows:

A. In personnel: 76 killed and 40 wounded.
B. In equipment: One command jeep, one armored vehicle, one Zil military vehicle, one ambulance, one Toyota vehicle and two water tankers were destroyed.
C. The peshmerga gained the following: four Toyota vehicles, one Antar truck, a large amount of scientific equipment from the scientific research center in As-Sulaymaniyah, one Kalashnikov rifle, one radio and three boxes of Russian-made ammunition.
D. Our losses: four martyrs.

III. There were 60 military operations in December, during which enemy losses were as follows;

A. In personnel: 174 killed, 118 wounded and 10 captured.
B. In equipment: 18 vehicles destroyed.
C. The peshmerga gained the following: four Toyota vehicles, two Kalashnikov guns, one revolver and several Kalashnikov magazines.
D. Our losses: One martyr, two wounded and three captured.

BRIEFS

CP SECRETARY REELECTED -- The latest issue of TARIQ ASH-SHA'B, organ of the Iraqi Communist Party, reported that Comrade 'Aziz Muhammad has been reelected as the first secretary of the Iraqi Communist Party's Central Committee and Politburo. The voice of Iraqi Kurdistan congratulates the communist comrades of renewing their trust in Comrade 'Aziz Muhammad. [(Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Surani Kurdish 1500 GMT 6 Feb 82 JN]

TURKISH COOPERATION -- Baghdad, 5 Feb (INA) -- (Majed Amkan), the director general of the Turkish television and radio station, arrived here today on a week-long visit to Iraq, during which he will hold talks with officials in the Iraqi information institutions. The talks are aimed at strengthening information and technical cooperation between the two friendly countries. He will also acquaint himself with the progress being made by the Iraqi radio and television establishment. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Feb 82 JN]

KING HUSAYN ADDRESSES AL-YARMUK VOLUNTEERS

JN091623 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1218 GMT 9 Feb 82

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[King Husayn's 9 February address to the Jordanian volunteers training for the Al-Yarmuk forces -- recorded; place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother fighters of the Jordanian Arab Al-Yarmuk forces, who are brandishing the banner, carrying the mission and representing the reawakening of honor and ethics and the symbols of sacrifice, I am visiting you today in your camps of training, preparedness and manliness. I am one of you who has had the honor of enlisting in the Al-Yarmuk forces. [applause] Millions of the sons of your beloved homeland and the sons of your nation are proud and honored by you. Current and future generations of the Arab nation will be proud of you and are pinning their hopes on you. Are you not the vanguards of those who responded to this nation's call and to its hopes and glories?

Are you not the light that comes after darkness, ignorance, selfishness and utter loss? Are you not the true and cherished dawn that breaks after a long period of expectation and anticipation? Indeed, you are all that, because of the noble meanings and characteristics you symbolize. You are following in the steps of your forefathers. You are the symbol of the return of the spirit -- the spirit of the true noble Arabs, the spirit of loyalty and faith, the spirit of rushing to the rescue and the spirit of chivalry and courage.

Before you came forth, others waited to see who would respond to the call of duty. They hesitated to see who would pay the dues of patriotism and salvation. But you chose to be first to sacrifice. You chose to begin when you rushed to volunteer in response to the call, the call of your faithful consciences.

You stepped forward to shoulder the responsibility, to carry the heavy burden and to embody the reawakening of the genuine Arab conscience. Before you, people used to act contrary to what they said and lived as parasites on the glories of others. As for you, you have restored meaning to sincerity and ethics because, not heeding the stands of the hesitant and the defeated, you began, all by yourselves, to join this blessed group because you believe that sincerity and ethics dictate that good acts must begin with oneself, that one must commit himself before anyone else to duty and sacrifice, copying those who preceded him from the sons of the Arab nation who achieved immortality for their feats and glories. [applause]

Sincere and courageous brothers, you are facing history's judgment. With God's help, you will be capable of shouldering these responsibilities and facing the challenges. With your faith, courage and sincerity, you will be capable of launching the beginning of the unwavering march, that of progress, pride and triumph, the march of participation, duties, sincerity and sacrifices. [applause]

As for fraternal Iraq, Islamic and courageous Iraq, for which you will leave soon, you will achieve triumph for it because it is part of you, the possessor of right and the one which is defending right and the Arab nation. Iraq is the faithful protector of the eastern flank of the Arab homeland, lives in the conscience of the Arab nation and is part of its genuine character. Iraq is that of Al-Qadisiyah, the Iraq of the Euphrates, the Tigres and the Iraq of Baghdad, the city of peace and the emblem of the Arab and Islamic civilization.

Iraq is that of the noble Iraqi Arab people, that of the triumphant Iraqi Army which has always devoted itself to repulsing Persian aggression and all aggressions against this nation. This army seeks only justice and peace for it and its nation as well as the safeguard of Arab rights and the dignity in Palestine, Sinai, Jordan and the Golan. [applause] With God's help, Iraq will forge victory and has the right to expect from its nation everywhere participation with it in protecting the Arabs' fate, entrenching the meaning of brotherhood and the values of loyalty and Arab commitment in the hearts of its sons and all the Arabs. We shall continue to wait with Iraq and with honest Arabs for the day when we regain dignity and the Arabs' full rights in Palestine and any other Arab territory, no matter how long this takes and regardless of the magnitude of the aggression and the extent of the oppression.

Dear and courageous brothers, I convey to you the greetings and feelings of pride of all Jordan and of all Arabs. I and all free, loyal and honest Arabs support you. Proceed forward with God's help with pride and dignity, united and victorious under the banner of the Arab army, the Al-Yarmuk and the Al-Qadisiyah banners. If ye will aid (the cause of) God, he will aid you, and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse] May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

HASAN IBRAHIM RECEIVES HUNGARIAN OFFICIAL

JN071323 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Feb 82

[Text] Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied land affairs, explained to the Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Robert Garai and his accompanying delegation when he received them today the bases for Jordan's stand toward establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East; the latest developments in the region; the Israeli authorities practices and plans in the occupied Arab territories against the Arab citizens and the establishment of settlements and the confiscation of land.

Garai presented his country's stand on the Middle East issue which includes support for a just peace in the region, Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights.

Deputy Foreign Minister Leaves

JN082248 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Feb 82

[Text] Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Robert Garai left Amman this morning after a 3-day official visit to Jordan during which he met with a number of high-ranking officials and discussed international issues of concern to the region, formost of which is the Palestinian question, in addition to Jordanian-Hungarian relations and ways to consolidate mutual cooperation. He reiterated his country's stand on the just Arab rights and on establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

PAKISTANI CHIEF OF STAFF DEPARTS 4 FEB

JN041428 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Gen Muhammad Iqbal Khan, chief of the joint staff of the Pakistani Armed Forces, and his military delegation left Amman today at the end of an official visit of several days to Jordan.

While here, the Pakistani official met with His Majesty King Husayn and several high-ranking officials.

AS-SAFIR EDITORIAL SEEKS SANCTIONS AGAINST US

PM091637 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 7 Feb 82 p 1

[Bilal al-Hasan editorial: "Exploitation of Diplomatic Victory"]

[Excerpts] No sooner had the UN General Assembly announced its resolution against Israel and the United States on the Golan Heights issue than the U.S. secretary of defense began a tour of some Arab countries. The main purpose of the tour is to hold talks in Riyadh on armament and security relations between the two countries.

The obvious and central question is: Was the UN General Assembly debate, to Arab officials, merely a diplomatic battle or issue that began with the beginning of the discussions on the Golan Heights and ended with the General Assembly's condemnation, or was the condemnation of Israel and the United States a phase in, or rather a prelude to, Arab measures in the diplomatic, economic or oil spheres against the United States as the main party supporting Israel and defending its annexation move?

In other words, will the Saudi officials and the U.S. secretary just recall the noisy discussions and speeches as things that belong only in the UN conference halls and that might call for some remonstration, and then move on to armament and trade talks as if nothing had happened?

The Arabs at present possess a number of cards for pressure in the economic and oil domains -- cards that can be effectively used against the United States to make it reconsider its support for Israel against the Arabs and, more significantly, to make the United States sense that its Arab allies are prepared to reconsider their arms purchases from it and even subject their oil relations with it, and with all the industrial world, to certain conditions. Such steps, moving from zero upwards, would make the U.S. secretary of defense realize that what happened at the United Nations was not just a casual expression of solidarity with the Arabs but a manifestation of an effective policy with effective tangible results that are harmful to the U.S. interests and therefore impose certain political attitudes on the U.S. administration.

Taking such a practical step or, at least, notifying the U.S. secretary of defense that there is an intention to take such a step, is the natural and expected move to complement the Arab diplomatic campaign. Such a move would open the way for real, strong and effective Arab solidarity and resolve the crisis of the Fes Arab summit conference. It would be a step forward, not a return to summit meetings for the sole purpose of declaring that Arab solidarity exists.

AMAL LEADER DISCUSSES OTHER PARTIES IN INTERVIEW

NC091912 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 1-7 Feb 82 pp 14-25

[Report on an interview "last week" with Nabih Birri, the leader of the Lebanese Amal movement, by Lydia Georgi -- place not given]

[Excerpts] The Amal movement, a paramilitary organization from the outset, was founded in 1973 by Imam Musa as-Sadr, spiritual leader of the Lebanese Shi'ite community, who disappeared when he went on an official visit to Libya in August 1978 and has not been heard of since.

Nabih Birri and other Amal leaders invariably stress that Amal was not born as a Shi'ite movement but as a movement for the deprived people in Lebanon, to give them amal (hope). They point out that this is clearly stated in the charter of the Amal movement, which was signed by 190 Lebanese intellectuals and politicians of whom around 130 were not Shi'ites.

Nabih Birri repeatedly underscored the non-religious, non-sectarian nature of Amal, but he conceded that most of the organization's registered members and most of its unregistered followers were Shi'ite Moslems.

"Without boasting, we consider our objectives more representative of the will of the Lebanese people as a whole than the objectives of any other party in Lebanon," he said, "Amal must therefore break out of the sectarian framework which others -- friends and foes alike, unfortunately -- are trying to restrict it with."

For the present, however, that "framework" is firmly in place. Nabih Birri has no information to offer on the number of the movement's registered members ("there are many fighters, political officials and information officials, but I can give you no figures"), and he says he has no way of estimating the number of unregistered Amal followers.

"You see the slogan scrawled on the walls: 'Amal is everywhere,' and Amal is indeed everywhere. If you go by arms, ammunition and equipment, we are probably the weakest party in Lebanon: The smallest organization is probably better armed and better equipped than we are: but our strength lies in our ability to make the people, the masses, carry out our orders, and they do it because they know we are out to meet their demands."

[Question] Speaking of arms, I said, where did the Amal movement get its weapons?

[Answer] "Our weapons come via Syria," he said.

[Question] And where does Amal get its financial backing?

[Answer] "From the people. We get contributions. Those who like to donate are thanked, and those who don't are free not to."

Amal's political posture: If the Amal movement is "neither rightist nor leftist," what are the objectives that make it "the most representative party in Lebanon?"

Nabih Birri defines his organization's goals as follows:

1. The preservation of a united Lebanon, especially through the protection of south Lebanon, the loss of which could lead to partition.

2. The reimposition of state authority and sovereignty in all parts of Lebanon, which involves the disarming of all militias and paramilitary organizations, including the Amal movement.

3. The consecration of the Arab identity of Lebanon, the definition of special military, security, economic and cultural relations between Lebanon and Syria, and the specification of Israel as Lebanon's arch-enemy.

4. The abolition of political sectarianism in Lebanon.

Those objectives, Birri pointed out, were covered by the 14 principles of national accord which were prepared by President Ilyas Sarkis and the government of former Premier Salim al-Huss in 1980 and approved by all parties in Lebanon.

But the fourth objective is not covered by those principles, which is why the Amal movement accompanied its approval of the accord principles with one reservation:

"I stated that political sectarianism must be abolished," Birri reported. "I said that the abolition of sectarianism must at least start in the army and in education, in the hope that this will lead to the total abolition of political sectarianism in Lebanon eventually."

Political sectarianism, he said, was the source of all the problems that led to the 1975 war, and it would lead to future breakdowns if it was maintained.

Amal and the National Movement: None of the political objectives of the Amal movement contradicts the political objectives of the National Movement as these are explained in the leftist alliance's working paper for a phased settlement of the Lebanese crisis.

In fact, the Amal movement, as Birri told me, participated in the preparation of the National Movement's settlement proposals.

Why the strained relations between Amal and the leftists which so often explode in bloody clashes?

Nabih Birri agreed that "where principles are concerned, there is no disagreement between us and the National Movement," but he added that the differences emerged over "details" and "behavior on the ground."

There are differences between the National Movement's line and the line of the Amal movement. Otherwise, as Birri put it, "we would have been one movement."

Those differences, he said, relate not to basic objectives but to the means towards the realization of those objectives.

For instance:

Support of the Central Government: Both Amal and the National Movement call for one strong central government, "but some of the actions taken by the National Movement appear to us to be incompatible with that position, and this sometimes leads to political collisions."

A case in point is the recently formed National Movement "security force."

According to the National Movement, this force, which is composed of militiamen drawn from various members of the leftist alliance, is entrusted with the task of supporting the legitimate security forces -- the internal security forces and the Arab Deterrent Forces -- in their efforts to impose law and order in west Beirut and other areas. Amal opposes the force on the grounds that it is a violation of the supremacy of the legal authorities in security affairs.

The role and structure of the Lebanese Army: At one point, there were differences between the National Movement and the Amal movement on the role of the Lebanese Army in the south, Birri said, explaining:

"We demanded that the Lebanese Army in its present form be deployed in south Lebanon. In one interview, I even said that I wanted the Army in the south even if it was 100 percent Maronite to extend the authority of the state to the international borders and put an end to the mini-state of Sa'd Haddad. In reaction to this position, the National Movement launched a campaign against us, declaring that Amal was in league with the Deuxieme Bureau (army intelligence) and things like that.

"We really paid the price of our position on that matter -- until a Lebanese-Syrian summit meeting was held and decided that the Lebanese Army must be dispatched to the south. Then the National Movement changed its approach, adopting the position that we had started advocating two years earlier."

Amal and the National Movement had "almost" the same objections to the present structure of the Lebanese Army, but there were certain differences. The major one being that the National Movement was demanding a "balanced" army, "which implies a balance of sects within the army," and the Amal movement was demanding the abolition of sectarianism in the army and its replacement with a merit system.

The parties' external relations: Nabih Birri noted that relations between some parties and various governments could be one of the factors contributing to the recurring violence between the Amal movement and some members of the National Movement and the PLO.

"There are relations with one, two or three Arab countries on which there is agreement between Amal and most (though not all) members of the National Movement," he said. "But there are countries which have relations with the National Movement and no relations with Amal, and the other way round." "Amal makes allowances for these particularities among our brothers in the National Movement, but unfortunately, we don't always find the same attitude on their part."

Birri did not specify the "external relations" involved, but it is general knowledge that the Amal movement is at daggers drawn with Libya, which supports some members of the National Movement and the PLO and which Amal accuses of abducting Imam Musa as-Sadr. It is also known that because of the Iranian-Iraqi war and Amal's relations with the Shi'ite Islamic revolutionary government in Tehran, tension is high between the Amal movement and the Iraqi-supported parties of the National Movement and the PLO.

Birri confirmed that there were "special relations" between the Amal movement and the revolution of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, but he stressed that those relations were based not so much on sectarian considerations as on "principles." "The principles of the Iranian Islamic revolution are a source of pride to us," he said. "We are proud of the Iranian revolution's support of the Palestinian cause, its advocacy of Arab rights and its backing of the weak and the deprived. The revolution has transformed Iran from a supporter of the enemy into a state that shares our views and feelings, and it is that transformation that is at the root of our special relations."

Amal and the Palestinians: Birri categorically denied that the Amal movement was hostile to the Palestinian resistance and armed Palestinian presence in south Lebanon. "We are interested in and working for the preservation of the Palestinian resistance in south Lebanon," he said. "Lebanon has an interest in keeping the Palestinian resistance strong and the Palestinian rifle raised, because if the Palestinian guns are laid down, that would automatically mean implantation (the permanent settlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon). Lebanon more than any other country must do its utmost to preserve and strengthen the Palestinian resistance until the Palestinian state is established and our Palestinian brothers can return to their land."

On this objective, the Amal movement, the National Movement and the PLO are in total agreement. The differences emerge over the means. "We say that in addition to preserving the Palestinian resistance, we must preserve south Lebanon and keep it Lebanese," Birri said. "We say that the preservation of the south is vital for both Lebanon and the Palestinians. The south is the last stronghold of the Palestinian gun. If it falls, there will be no more Palestinian gun, and Lebanon will be torn to shreds. "This means that we must find the ideal formula that will preserve both the south and the Palestinian gun." That formula, Birri intimated, can be found if the Palestinian guerrillas changed some of their "behavior on the ground" in south Lebanon. "For instance, the launching of Palestinian operations from the south villages leads to Israeli reactions against those villages, which leads to resentment of the Palestinian resistance among the villagers, which leads to various developments on the ground, including clashes between the Amal movement and other parties....

"The launching of operations from the villages or the presence of bases in the villages frightens the villagers. It is natural for them to be afraid that Israel will some day retaliate and bomb their villages. Instead of being in the center of the village, a base should be far from the village, and not easily visible."

The Palestinians, Birri said must keep in mind that "the people of the south, including the Shi'ites, have given the Palestinian cause more than all the Arabs combined have given it. They have given the cause their land, their children, their security, their orchards -- everything but their honor and dignity. No one in the Arab world can outclaim the people of the south where the service of the Palestinian cause is concerned. And I believe that when the Palestinian cause triumphs and the Palestinian people return to their land, they must drill into their children's minds that had it not been for the Lebanese and the south Lebanese in particular, they would not be in Palestine today."

[Question] There were those who were convinced that the way things were going in the south now, a major confrontation between the Amal movement and the PLO was inevitable I said.

Birri: "I assure you that there is no contradiction between the Amal movement and the PLO. Our principles and the Palestinian cause are totally compatible. All we want, as I told you, is to find a way to reconcile the preservation of the Palestinian gun with the preservation of south Lebanon. Our differences are over the means, not the end."

Amal and the Shi'ite-Sunnite equation: Nabih Birri dismissed as destructive and false all speculation about a threat of Shi'ite-Sunnite hostility running through the Amal movement's recurring battles with members of the National Movement and the PLO.

"This is part of the plot to slice Lebanon up into sectarian mini-states," he said. "Now that Lebanon has been virtually partitioned on the social level into Moslem and Christian territories, they are trying to partition it into sectarian entities.

"Thus, whenever a problem arises for whatever reason, both we and our adversaries are astonished to hear it presented as a Shi'ite-Sunnite clash. This happened in west Beirut this month (January). The unfortunate battles that occurred were immediately portrayed as Shi'ite-Sunnite battles, although sectarian sensitivities had absolutely nothing to do with the problem. The battles were between the Amal movement, whose leader, Nabih Birro, is a Shi'ite, and the Communist Action organization, whose leader Muhsin Ibrahim, is a Shi'ite and a half. Furthermore, the one person killed and the two wounded in the Khandaq al-Ghamiq clashed were all Shi'ites. But somehow, the violence was presented as Shi'ite-Sunnite. Why? Because there is a conspiracy afoot, a real conspiracy against this country. The danger it poses is not posed to the Shi'ites and Sunnites alone but to Lebanon as a whole."

It was to head off this danger, Birri said, that he launched a series of contacts with Sunnite leaders, including the spiritual leader of the Lebanese Sunnite community, Mufti Hasan Khalid, in the wake of the January clashes in west Beirut.

"In those meetings, I sensed a very positive spirit, and it is our hope that what happened in January has increased the solidarity between us (Shi'ites and Sunnites) and our vigilance against attempts to separate us," Birri said.

Amal and the Islamic Grouping: The Islamic Grouping, a loose association of rightist Sunnite leaders, has no written charter or position, "and as such we cannot say we agree or disagree with them," Birri said.

"What I can tell you is that I am in favor of some of the statements that are made from time to time by some of its members -- like the statements supporting legitimacy and calling for the return of security duties to the internal security forces.

"Most of the positions announced by the Islamic Grouping do not contradict the line of the Amal movement.

Amal and the Lebanese front: The rightist, Maronite-dominated Lebanese Front alliance, whose main members are the Phalangist and National Liberal Parties, "appears to represent the top of the social and economic ladder in Lebanon," Birri said, "while the Amal movement represents the deprived -- the bottom rung of the ladder."

But the difference between the two currents does not end there. Birri finds his organization and the Lebanese Front poles apart on two major issues: their conceptions of the future structure of Lebanon and their attitudes towards the central government of Lebanon.

"The Lebanese Front has this concept of 'pluralism,'" which means they believe there are unscalable cultural barriers among the various Lebanese communities that should be taken into account in any future formula for Lebanon, "and this concept differs from the Amal movement's view of the unity of the Lebanese people," Birri said. "Cultural disparity does not mean civilizational plurality. If one of two brothers is an electrician and the other is a doctor, one does not conclude that there is plurality."

And regarding the two parties' attitude toward the central government, Birri added, "The Maronites claim to support legitimacy, and historically speaking, they have a greater interest than anyone else in supporting legitimacy. But we find that this has not been the case over the past few years. The Amal movement considers the Lebanese Front to be one of the parties that have inflicted the greatest damage on Lebanese legitimacy in the regime of President Sarkis."

The anti-government tendencies of the Lebanese Front, Birri said, were demonstrated by the alliance's behavior in the areas under its control: "Its takeover of part of the Beirut port, where it is collecting customs duties for itself and depriving the Lebanese state of a major source of revenue; its takeover of Lebanese Army checkpoints in more than one area, and its assault on the dignity and morale of the Army in Ayn Rummanah; its imposition of extra taxes in various state departments in its areas...."

Referring to the recent demand by Phalangist Party President Pierre al-Jamayyil that the Lebanese Government move in and take over all security duties in Lebanese Front areas, which was followed by an immediate statement by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan that he had given the Army and other Lebanese security forces orders to move in, Birri said: "Al-Jumayyil, who is a sportsman as we know, threw the ball into the government's park, and now Al-Wazzan has thrown it back into the Phalangist park. The Phalangists must now prove that they meant what they said, and they can prove it by stepping aside and allowing the legitimate security forces to take over at the port and everywhere else, without any Phalangist control, so that both Phalangists and non-Phalangists in that area can come under the rule of law."

He added: "But I fear that what (former Prime Minister Rashid) Karami said will turn out to be true: 'Al-Jumayyil will not hand over, nor will Al-Wazzan take over'."

But the Amal movement's differences with the Lebanese Front did not mean that the movement was unwilling to enter into a dialogue with the Front, Birri said. Noting that "I was perhaps the only person on this side who responded positively to (Phalangist Politburo member) Amin al-Jumayyil's recent call for a dialogue among the Lebanese parties."

In fact, the Amal movement approved of a number of new trends in the policies of the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Front, Birri said, and those new trends included:

1. "The recent invitation to the Lebanese legitimate authorities to take over in Lebanese Front areas."

2. "Amin al-Jumayyil's clearly stated position against Sa'd Haddad, the person who has actually partitioned Lebanon by collaborating with Israel."

3. "Amin al-Jumayyil's call for a dialogue, and we call on the legal authorities to take this matter up and speed up the work of the Arab Follow-up Committee to make dialogue possible."

4. "The statements which are sometimes made by Phalangist leaders in favor of abolishing political sectarianism, which is one of our major demands."

Amal and the Syrian Government: The Amal movement, in keeping with the 14 principles of national accord, favored "very special relations between Syria and Lebanon on the military, security, economic, cultural and information levels." Birri said.

He added: "It is vital that in-depth discussions be launched between the Lebanese and Syrian authorities to define those special relations in detail. Because so far, we have had nothing but statements about Lebanon and Syria being 'twins' and statements about the need for 'special relations' -- a great deal of Arabic eloquence but no action at all."

The Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces would continue to be needed in Lebanon "until all arms are collected, until Lebanese legitimacy regains total control over all vital institutions -- in short, until everything in Lebanon returns to normal," Birri said. "And as long as they are needed, it is a great mistake to demand their withdrawal. Take a look at the problems that are happening every day; take a look at the weakness of the legitimate authorities; and imagine what would happen if the ADF were not here. If we did not have such forces, we would demand them -- and what forces are more qualified to help us than the forces of our neighbors, which are placed at the disposal of Lebanese legitimacy?"

HADDAD ON VOLUNTEERS TO IRAN; RAPS AMAL, SYRIA

NC100917 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Feb 82

[Text] Free Lebanon commander Major Haddad has commented on some current affairs and topics as follows:

1. We bring glad tidings to the sons of free Lebanon: We received a cable from Iran reassuring us and informing us that the first batch of free Lebanon volunteers, which numbers 150 men under the command of fighter Muhammad Hasan 'Ali Bazzi, arrived in Iran yesterday safely without any difficulties worth mentioning.

2. We ask those responsible for electricity affairs in An-Nabatiyah and Sidon to do all they can to restore the power current from An-Nabatiyah to Marj 'Uyun. The current was cut some 10 days ago and has not been repaired or connected yet.

3. The Syrian information media, such as the radio and the official newspapers, inform us daily of calls addressed to all the Arab states to sever their relations with the United States. This prompts questions as to what lies behind these suspicious calls, particularly since Syria itself has not and will not contemplate severing its relations with the United States in view of the fact that the Golan issue is Syria's before any other states that have been asked by Syria to hasten and sever such relations. Does Hafiz al-Asad believe, Major Haddad asks, that his lies, distortions and tricks will always mislead the Arabs?

4. We ask lawyer Nabih Birri, the son of the southern township of Tibnin, whether paragraph seven of the Amal movement document sitpulates that the swindlers [Palestinians] have the right to behave like an occupation force in the South,to expel its sons and seize their assets and houses and to trample the dignity of the remaining southerners who are holding on to their land and houses by assaulting their women and blemishing their honor with shame. The southerner must bear all this alone, because the swindlers claim they have a cause, while in reality they have nothing to do with anything called a cause.

If Mr Birri is not aware such things are taking place, and if he is not aware of their reality, then he only has to leave Beirut and come to the afflicted south to live in his township of Tibnin among the sons of the south. He can then see for himself what the swindlers are doing against the southerners and consequently answer his eminence Mufti Qabalan. I have no doubt, Major Haddad affirms, that his answer will be completely different from his previous one, because the massacres committed in Hannawiyah and elsewhere will not affect Nabih Birri because he did not see them. But if Nabih Birri really knows what has taken place and is taking place and despite this answers his eminence in the manner he did, then it is a matter which underlines our doubts of Nabih Birri's complicity in the conspiracy providing for handing over the south to the swindlers after expelling its true inhabitants. Furthermore, His Eminence Imam Musa as-Sadr was killed in Libya just because he discovered this conspiracy, refused to go along with it or carry it out and resolved to expose and resist it. After this, we will not be surprised if we were to discover later that Mr Birri is receiving funds from his mad master Mu'ammar al-Quaddhafi and from his hand which is stained with the imam's blood.

We must not forget, Major Haddad said, concluding his statement, to apologize to his eminence Mufti Qabalah, because we have allowed ourselves to reply for him and have not been able to keep quiet on this because we are sons of the south, live in the south and jealously guard the sons of the south as we would ourselves.

AL-BA'TH ON ISRAEL'S BUILDUP IN S. LEBANON

JN101015 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0910 GMT 10 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus, 10 Feb (SANA) -- In today's editorial, AL-BA'TH deals with the threat by Zionist Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon to launch a wide-scale war against southern Lebanon. It says: What draws attention to the threat is that it was levelled in the wake of Sharon's meeting with UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart and after the UN General Assembly punitive resolution against Israel. The threat, the paper adds, shows that Israel is in no way paying attention to world public opinion. AL-BA'TH notes correspondent reports that describe the Zionist military buildup and movements in southern Lebanon along the border strip as unusual.

Alluding to Zionist Foreign Minister Shamir's statement before the Knesset that Syria is Israel's archenemy, the paper says that this implies that Syria will be the axis of the forthcoming aggression because Syria leads the Arab struggle against the Camp David accords and the U.S. aggressive designs in the Arab region.

The paper adds: Shamir's statement coupled with U.S. President Reagan's assertion that "Israel is a strategic asset" is a new sign that the United States will utilize this resource in its anti-Arab strategy. This, AL-BA'TH says, requires the Arabs to be aware of the U.S. move during the next stage because it is aimed at aborting Arab political success at the international level.

In conclusion, AL-BA'TH calls upon the Arabs to develop joint Arab action to confront the United States and Israel and to bring about the expulsion of Israel from the United Nations by building an intrinsic Arab force and realizing a strategic balance with the Zionist enemy.

AL-MUSTAQBAL INTERVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM

JN071022 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 6 Feb 82 pp 26, 27

[Interview granted by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to AL-MUSTAQBAL correspondent in New York Basim al-Mu'allim -- date not given]

[Text] AL-MUSTAQBAL: You have called for suspending Israel's UN membership after it refused to adhere to UN Security Council resolutions, its conventions and the legitimacy of this international organization. What has become of this request and what are international reactions to it?

Khaddam: Through all its practices, Israel has shown that it does not seek peace and is not committed to the UN charter or its conventions. Hence, it is only natural that we seek to implement the clauses of the UN Charter, especially since Israel's UN membership, which took place in 1949, was conditional to two basic conditions: firstly, that it must be a peace-loving country committed to the implementation of the charter, and secondly, that it must implement the two resolutions on the Palestinian issue, on partition and on the right to return. Of course, we realize that obstacles stand in the way of this subject and some countries do not wish Israel to refrain from aggression. Last year and this year, the United States stated that if Israel's membership were suspended it would boycott the United Nations and leave this organization. The problem here is not with Israel but with the United States. Many member countries, which used to evade discussion of this issue, have come to view our request positively. Therefore, we shall pursue this course until the day comes when we will succeed in putting Israel out of the United Nations.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: The Soviet Union, as is well-known, is a friend of Syria and of Third World countries. What is the Soviet Union's stand? Will it accept the suspension of Israel's membership?

Khaddam: The Soviet Union and socialist bloc countries support Syria and the Arabs and any move that will consolidate the Syrian and Arab stand. We are confident that the socialist countries will accept it.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Reports in the U.S. capital mention that Soviet-Syrian relations are not so good and that President al-Asad visits Moscow each time the atmosphere between Syria and Israel becomes tense or Israel carries out acts of aggression and expansion. This time President al-Asad did not go to Moscow. How true are these reports?

Khaddam: Soviet-Syrian relations are good and stable. They are based on two things. First, the Soviet and socialist countries support the Arabs in their just struggle and their national and pan-Arab rights in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories. Second, the Soviet Union adopts stands in support of the peoples' struggle for liberation. Within the framework of these two principles, relations between us and the Soviet Union are good and stable. That's why it makes no difference to us what is being said here and there. This is something natural. Many parties, particularly those that support Israel, will try to cast shadows on these relations. This, however, will not affect us.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Are there any Syrian measures or intentions to sign a strategic treaty or agreement with the Soviet Union similar to the one signed between Israel and the United States to safeguard pan-Arab interests and Syria's defensive capabilities?

Khaddam: We believe that strategic balance between Syria and Israel must be achieved. The absence of this balance has enabled Israel to do as it wants in the region and to claim through its defense minister that Israel's strategic security borders extend from Pakistan to Turkey passing through some Asian and Islamic countries. Therefore, the achievement of strategic balance is of primary importance and is vital to the Arab nation in general and to Syria in particular given that it will constitute the bulwark that will be raised in the Israeli enemy's face and against Israel's expansionist schemes. Therefore, we believe that strategic balance must be based on three things: First, Syria must be strong in every sense of the word. It must be strong politically, economically and militarily.

Second, there should be effective Arab participation with Syria in confronting aggression, given that the current dispute in the region is an Israeli-Arab dispute and not an Israeli-Syrian dispute. This highlights the importance of the national dimension of this dispute. Thus, the second and basic factor for achieving strategic balance will be through Arab participation and a serious and effective Arab stand to confront the aggression side by side with Syria because the Arab nation must play a major role in defining strategic balance between us and the Israeli enemy.

Third, good and solid relations must exist between the Arabs and the Soviet Union to counter the solid and good relations that exist between Israel and the United States because we are not just facing an Israeli political, economic or military power but that of three powers united in one front. They are the United States, Israel and world Zionism. Therefore, to confront these three powers, three other powers must appear, that of Syria, the Arabs and the one constituted by good and strong relations with the Soviet Union. We shall work to achieve this equation. We shall not achieve this equation if one of its bases is lacking. To compensate for the nonexistence of one of these bases, one of the other bases of this tripartite equation must therefore be strengthened.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Does this mean that if Syria fails to achieve this equation by securing Arab unanimity or a minimum of Arab unanimity to confront world Zionism it will resort to concluding a strategic agreement with the Soviet Union?

Khaddam: There is no doubt that these issues must be discussed in light of the overall Arab situation and in light of the discussions we are holding with the brother Arab countries. The Israeli-Arab dispute is a matter of life and death to the Arabs. We shall do everything to protect our pan-Arab existence and to protect our right to be independent over our land and in our homeland.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Is there any new Soviet military assistance or a Soviet readiness to provide Syria with the requested sophisticated weapons that will enable it to protect its rights against Israeli aggression?

Khaddam: The Soviet Union supports us against Israeli aggression. The Soviet Union is providing us with assistance. We must mention here that Israel possesses military hardware and weapons far superior to what we have. That's why we have set the objective of achieving strategic balance with Israel as one of our constant objectives. We shall, of course, do our best to provide Syria with capabilities that will enable it to protect itself, to defend the basic Arab cause and to carry out its responsibilities against Israeli threats and aggressions.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Have the Arab countries that committed themselves to supporting Syria at the many Arab summit conferences announced that they are ready to contribute in financing the purchase of Soviet weapons or any other weapons that Syria needs for the fateful battle?

Khaddam: Syria considers the dispute with Israel as a pan-Arab dispute. Therefore Syria has been seeking for many years to emphasize the pan-Arab dimension of this dispute. Syria also seeks to have Arab countries shoulder their responsibilities of participating in the fateful cause. We are holding more contacts with our brothers to have them play a role in the confrontation that will be commensurate to the means available to them, especially since the Israeli threat is not targeted only at the Arab countries that surround Palestine. In view of our geographic location and our commitment to the Arab cause, we in Syria must pursue our contacts and efforts with all the brothers to have them contribute to the burden of confrontation.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Do they want to help or not?

Khaddam: Let the reader draw his conclusions.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: On more than one occasion, several U.S. officials have implied that President Reagan's administration always tries to check Israeli military belligerence from fear that it will strike at Syria in Lebanon or in Syria itself. They also give the impression that Israel can easily defeat Syria militarily. How do you evaluate these claims?

Khaddam: Syria is not a small fish that can be devoured by anyone. Syria is a real political and military power in the region. It is not alone in the region. It is supported by the Arab nation, many friends in the world and by world public opinion. There is also a broad international front of support, the socialist bloc, nonaligned countries and the Islamic world. If exposed to aggression, Syria will defend itself with all its capabilities, which are not few. In addition to all this any aggression against Syria will call for the implementation of the provisions of the treaty of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union. Israel and the United States realize very well what the implementation of these provisions mean. Israel is trying to blackmail the Arabs with these claims. Some U.S. quarters are trying to blackmail some Arab quarters with these ideas to cover up for the assistance the United States is providing to Israel. In addition to this, who is responsible for this Israeli belligerence? Undoubtedly, it is the party which is offering Israel unlimited military assistance and political cover.

That's why if there is any belligerence, the one who is nurturing this belligerence is the one who is providing assistance. In any case, we Arabs are not ready to give in to such blackmail.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What about the possibility of meeting with U.S. officials during this visit, and is Damascus willing to welcome U.S. envoys to discuss issues of interest to the United States in the region, particularly with regard to Lebanon. The envoy I have in mind here is Philip Habib?

Khaddam: I had no contact with any U.S. official during my stay in New York. As for U.S. delegations which come to Syria or may ask to come to Syria, we have not closed the door to them. The door remains open for envoys from any country excluding Israel, of course, to listen to and discuss any issue. We shall define our stand in light of this envoy's mission and in light of what we consider fruitful or not.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: By coincidence, your presence in New York and the discussion of the Golan issue in the extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly have taken place while Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is visiting Washington. There is talk in the U.S. capital that the Golan issue after the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in April will be the basis for negotiations between Syria and Israel. What is your stand on this idea?

Khaddam: This talk must not be given any importance or taken seriously for the following reasons: First, Syrian territory is not subject to bargaining or blackmail. Syria's territorial integrity is something that cannot be subject to bargaining, nor can Syria's sovereignty over all its territory. Second, we do not distinguish between our occupied territories in the Golan and our occupied territories in Palestine.

Consequently, we cannot separate the issue of the liberation of Arab territories from the issue of the inalienable Palestinian national rights. When we rejected and confronted Camp David, we did not do so because it was As-Sadat who signed it. We rejected Camp David because it leads to the disruption of the Arab stand, the fragmentation of the cause and the establishment of partial settlements. This inevitably leads to the entrenchment of the aggression and Israel's hegemony in the region. Therefore, it is not possible to talk about negotiations on the Golan because the Golan cannot be separated from the Palestinian cause. This is what President Hafiz al-Asad means when he says there is no chance of bartering Syrian rights for Palestinian rights because all the rights are one and Arab. When Kissinger proposed the possibility of holding separate negotiations on the Golan in 1975, President al-Asad categorically rejected this, saying: We cannot take any step that might lead to relinquishing our pan-Arab commitment to the Palestinian cause and to the Palestinian Arab people. As for saying, wait until after April, this is also superficial. What will happen after 24 April? What is the difference between 24 and 26 April? There will be nothing new. When we rejected the Camp David accords and the Arabs took the decision to isolate the Egyptian regime at the Baghdad summit, the Arabs knew that the Camp David accords would be impelemented and that Israel would withdraw from Sinai. Despite this, a siege was imposed on the Egyptian regime and it was isolated not because a withdrawal would take place from Sinai but because Egypt would be completely occupied and its sovereignty restricted. I recall here what I told a U.S. official who was visiting Damascus. I said to him: Suppose the Egyptian Government decides to use one of its sovereign rights and closes down the Israeli Embassy in Cairo and the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv. What will happen? Suppose that the Egyptian Government decides to use one of its sovereign rights and closes the tourist road between Palestine and Egypt. What will happen? Suppose also that to protect the Egyptian national economy, it decides to ban the entrance of Israeli goods to Egypt. What will happen? The U.S. official said: Very serious things will take place. I told him: This is so.

Israel will then resort to rights it has been accorded by the treaty and will think that Egypt has violated the provisions of the treaty and will send its forces to the areas it had withdrawn from. Then I asked him: Will the Egyptian Government be able to take decisions and measures in Sinai similar to those it can take or implement in Alexandria, Dumyat and Al-Fayyum? He replied that it would not be possible. I asked him: Can Egypt send its troops to Sinai as it can to Alexandria? He replied: No, the treaty bans this. I said to him: Then this treaty did not restore Sinai to Egypt but has put restrictions on all of Egypt in Israel's service and interest. That's why we believe that nothing new will take place after 25 April.

MONDAY MORNING INTERVIEWS INFORMATION MINISTER

NC091158 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 1-7 Feb 82 pp 36-39

[By Nadim Abu Ghannam]

[Text] The Syrian minister of information, Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, last week announced three "fundamental elements" which the Syrian Government believes can lead to a "a just, lasting and comprehensive peace" in the Middle East.

In a private interview with MONDAY MORNING in Damascus, Minister Ahmad listed those elements as follows:

First: Israel's full and unconditional withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied during the June, 1967 aggression, including Arab Jerusalem.

"Second: Confirmation of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to self-determination, and their right to return and to build an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil.

"Third: Termination of the state of war between the Arabs and Israel."

If those "fundamental elements of peace" were accepted, the minister said, they would "put enough distance between us and the As-Sadat-Begin form of capitulation."

Syria, he said, believed in and was seeking a just peace, "but there is no greater distance than the distance between the peace we want and the capitulation which American imperialism and Zionism are trying to impose on us."

The Syrian minister said it was Syria's hope that as a result of the extraordinary UN General Assembly session (which was starting as this interview was being conducted), "all the nations that believe in freedom, progress and peace in the world" would impose sanctions against Israel for its annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

Regarding French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson's statement to MONDAY MORNING last week that France considered the annexation of the Golan Heights null and void but could not consider it a threat to world peace and therefore would not support sanctions against Israel, Ahmad said: "The statement of Mr Cheysson is contradictory.... By this decision, Israel has pushed the region to the brink of war, further complicated the situation, and destroyed the opportunities of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. And any detonation of the situation in the Middle East would beyond doubt constitute a threat to world peace and security, because this region does not concern us alone but also concerns all other countries."

He added: "We had hoped that France, whose past positions were appreciated, would maintain the policy it followed from the June 1967 Israeli aggression until the advent of the new French administration."

The Golan, like all other occupied Arab lands, "was occupied by force and will be regained by force," he said. "And force does not mean military force only, but also economic and political force."

He added: "This aggressive action by America and Israel against us requires the mobilization of all Arab resources to confront and deter the aggression."

Asked whether he thought an Arab summit conference would yield any results at this time, considering the various Arab disputes, Minister Ahmad said that although no summit had been proposed yet, "We are not against any Arab meeting at any level, provided the necessary preparations are made to guarantee its success."

And while it was true that the Arabs were divided, the situation "is not as bad as the Western media portray it. In his tour of some countries of the Arab east, President Hafiz al-Asad succeeded in creating a more suitable atmosphere for joint Arab action capable of confronting the threat of Israeli expansionism which is being protected and encouraged by the United States of America," a country which Syria considered "the arch-enemy of the Arab people."

Commenting on the recent Syrian-Jordanian border incident which Damascus has accused Amman of provoking, Ahmad said: "It is regrettable that the Jordanian Government provokes incidents and seeks to create tension in its relations with Syria. No Arab can interpret this Jordanian position except in the light of the imperialist assault on Syria, which is aimed at weakening the Syrian position -- or so they imagine.... But we say it frankly: Those who want to play the part of the agent of the Arabs' enemy will not escape the wrath of the Arab people."

In answer to a question on the possibility of Syria signing a strategic cooperation treaty with the Soviet Union, the minister said: "Syria will do everything possible to increase its defense capabilities to be able to confront Israel's insolence and Israel's aggressive, expansionist tendency. Nothing is more dear and valuable to us than the soil of our nation and the rights and honor of our people."

Ahmad did not rule out the possibility of an Israeli attack on south Lebanon, but he said: "We consider any part of the Arab land as important as any part of Syria. As we confronted aggression attempts in the past, we will continue to confront any Israeli aggression, be it against south Lebanon or anywhere else."

The following is a translation of the full interview, which was conducted in Arabic:

[Question] What is your comment on French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson's statement to this magazine last week that although France condemns the Israeli law on the Golan Heights and considers it null and void, it does not consider it a threat to world peace and therefore is not in favor of sanctions against Israel?

[Answer] The statement of Mr Cheysson is contradictory. We had hoped that France, whose past positions we appreciated, would maintain the policy it followed from the June 1967 Israeli aggression until the advent of the new French administration.

The Israeli decision to annex the Golan Heights was a violation of the United Nations Charter and the resolutions of the international community regarding territories occupied in times of war. By this decision, Israel has pushed the region to the brink of war, further complicated the situation, and destroyed the opportunities of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

And any detonation of the situation in the Middle East would beyond doubt constitute a threat to world peace and security, because this region does not concern us alone but concerns all other countries.

[Question] What does Syria expect from the emergency meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Golan issue? Of what use would more General Assembly resolutions be?

[Answer] What we want in this meeting is for all the nations that believe in freedom, progress and peace in the world to impose the necessary sanctions against the racist, aggressive, expansionist tendency of Israel.

The condemnations of the Israeli decision and of Israel as an aggressor that have issued from the nonaligned nations, the Islamic Conference, the states of the socialist bloc and all the free peoples of the world make us more optimistic about the United Nations and spur us into increased struggle against the attempts of American imperialism and Zionism to impose subordination on the Arab nation and the peoples of the Third World.

Through this meeting, we want to confirm our right in our land and our usurped rights in occupied Palestine.

We are a people that wants a just, permanent and comprehensive peace, and we have affirmed this repeatedly in international forums. We have said that there are certain fundamental elements of peace which, if realized, would put enough distance between us and the As-Sadat-Begin form of capitulation.

Those elements have always been and still are the following:

First: Israel's full and unconditional withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied during the June, 1967 aggression, including Arab Jerusalem.

Second: Confirmation of the inalienable national right of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to self-determination, and their right to return and to build an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil.

Third: Termination of the state of war between the Arabs and Israel.

The convening of the United Nations General Assembly in these circumstances provides us with a new opportunity to reaffirm our principles of freedom and peace and to make it clear to the entire world that, although we believe in a just peace and seek it, we shall not bargain over any of our rights, we shall not drop our claim to a single grain of our country's and our nation's soil, and we shall by no means relinquish any of our rights in all the occupied Arab territories.

There is no greater distance than the distance between the peace we want and the capitulation which American imperialism and Zionism are seeking to impose on us. To those we declare that Syria, which is strong in itself, in its party and in its people, can never go back on any of its national principles and can never be dragged into a position which is incompatible with those principles.

We have confidence in ourselves and in our future. We have confidence in ourselves because we are building a modern Syria, and we have confidence in our future because we are seeking that future like combatants who have a clear vision and the courage to move towards their just goals.

[Question] The Syrian ambassador in Washington told MONDAY MORNING last week that Syria would seek an Arab summit conference. What do you think such a conference can achieve now, given the various Arab disputes?

[Answer] The idea of holding an Arab summit conference has not been proposed yet. When the conference of Arab foreign ministers is held, every Arab country will have the opportunity to present its view.

In principle, we are not against any Arab meeting at any level, provided the necessary preparations are made to guarantee its success. We are always in need of successful meetings to discuss our issue of destiny -- the issue of Israel's continuing occupation of Arab land.

While it is true that the Arab situation suffers from division, it is not as bad as Western media portray it. In his tour of some countries of the Arab east, President Hafiz al-Asad succeeded in creating a more suitable atmosphere for joint Arab action capable of confronting the threat of Israeli expansionism which is being protected and encouraged by the United States of America on the economic, political and military levels. The United States pays Israel 15 to 20 million dollars daily, in addition to other grants and the donations it allows to be collected for Israel.

This aggressive action by America and Israel against us requires the mobilization of all Arab resources to confront and deter the aggression. We in Syria, supported by our Arab nation and our friends around the world, will continue to struggle until we liberate our lands and regain our usurped rights, no matter how great the difficulties and how strong the pressures become.

[Question] What is behind the charges that Syria made against Jordan last week?

[Answer] It is regrettable that the Jordanian Government provokes incidents and seeks to create tension in its relations with Syria. No Arab can interpret this Jordanian position except in the light of the imperialist assault on Syria, which is aimed at weakening the Syrian position -- or so they imagine.

We have since the inception of the corrective movement (of the Syrian Ba'th Party) considered Arab solidarity one of the firm strategic principles in our policy. From that day till now, we have never been the ones to start any dispute with any Arab country. But we say it frankly: Those who want to play the part of the agent of the Arabs' enemy will not escape the wrath of the Arab people.

[Question] How would you describe Syrian-American relations after the American veto at the Security Council and after the visit of Senator Percy to Damascus?

[Answer] We consider the United States of America the arch-enemy of the Arab people, and we consider it responsible for the continuing Israeli occupation of Arab land. The insolence with which Israel speaks against the Arabs and against any just and comprehensive peace is in fact the insolence of American power, it is American hostility towards the Arabs.

There are diplomatic realtions between us (Syria and the U.S.), but nothing more.

[Question] Regarding the situation in Lebanon: Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan told this magazine last week that the postponement of the Arab Follow-up Committee's meeting was due mainly to Arab disputes. What disputes are these?

[Answer] Ask the Lebanese prime minister. As far as we are concerned, we do everything in our power and offer all the sacrifices we can to support Lebanese legitimacy in everything that can lead to national entente, to the strengthening of the Lebanese state and to the subjection of all Lebanese territory to state authority.

[Question] Do you believe the [Arab] Follow-up Committee can make any progress toward peace in Lebanon this year, or do you think its mission has been aborted once and for all?

[Answer] I affirm once more that the Syrian Arab Republic will continue to do its national and humanitarian duty towards our brothers the Lebanese and the Palestinians, and we will continue our efforts to help Lebanese legitimacy overcome the new obstacles.

[Question] Do you share the view that Israel is preparing to launch an attack on south Lebanon? And what would Syria's reaction be in the event of such an attack?

[Answer] I will simply say that Israel was born by aggression and it has been perpetuated by aggression. It has exploited any circumstances which it believes are appropriate for further aggression and additional expansion -- and it still does so.

We all stand against any insanity Israel commits, and we consider any part of the Arab land as important as any part of Syria. As we confronted aggression attempts in the past, we will continue to confront any Israeli aggression, be it against south Lebanon or anywhere else.

[Question] What did Syria obtain from the Soviet Union during Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's recent visit to Moscow?

[Answer] The relations between Syria and the Soviet Union are strong, friendly strategic relations. We always appreicate the Soviet Union's principled position in support of our just cause.

[Question] What are the chances of a strategic cooperation treaty being signed between Syria and the Soviet Union?

[Answer] Syria will do everything possible to increase its defense capabilities to be able to confront Israel's insolence and Israel's aggressive, expansionist tendency. Nothing is more dear and valuable to us than the soil of our nation and the rights and honor of our people.

[Question] President Hafiz al-Asad has said that the Golan Heights were not taken by a law and will not be regained by a law. How does Syria believe it can regain the Golan Heights?

[Answer] The part of the Golan which is still under occupation is like all the other occupied Arab lands: It was occupied by force and will be regained by force. And force does not mean military force only, but also economic and political force.

As I said at the beginning of this interview, Syria is building itself on solid foundations, seeking a combative Arab solidarity against the Zionist entity and taking political action in various international forums -- our aim in all this being the liberation of our land. Our first concern in every step we take is the liberation of the occupied Arab lands. This is a goal which we cannot and do not have the right to abandon -- for the sake of our people now and for the sake of future generations, for our children must not live under the yoke of occupation or the humilation of servitude to imperialism and Zionism.

[Question] French President Francois Mitterrand is expected to visit Israel next March. Do you think this visit will promote or hamper progress towards peace?

[Answer] This matter is covered by my answer to your first question.

[Question] Does President al-Asad still intend to visit the countries of the Maghreb?

[Answer] President al-Asad will continue his tour and visit a number of countries in the Maghreb.

[Question] When?

[Answer] When circumstances allow.

ASH-SHAR' CONFERS WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR

JN100835 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus, 10 Feb (SANA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Faruq ash-Shar' yesterday received the French ambassador in Damascus. The discussions during the meeting touched on bilateral relations and the latest developments in the region. The discussions also dealt with France's negative stand at the UN General Assembly with regard to the resolution on the annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

Ash-Shar' and the French ambassador also discussed the sensitivity of the expected visit to Israel by French President Mitterrand at a time when Israel has proved to the whole world its lack of desire for peace and its disavowal of all international laws and principles.

KNESSET DEBATES UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

TA091635 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Let us return to the Knesset debate on last week's UN General Assembly resolution. We have already heard that there will not be any joint Alignment-coalition announcement. Our Knesset correspondent Gil'ad Mishori sums up what has been said from the podium:

[Mishori] The political debate following the latest resolution of condemnation passed by the UN General Assembly did not bring any special surprises, nor did it even arouse any special interest among the Knesset members. In his announcement, the foreign minister repeated the main proints of the 7 February Cabinet announcement and he particularly condemned Syria, Iraq, the Soviet Union and Libya which, he said, were behind the resolution.

[Begin Shamir recording] This is the height of absurdity, that representatives of such countries should preach morality to Israel, should determine that Israel is not a peace-loving country and should call for the imposition of an international boycott on it. That resolution is and will continue to be invalid. Indeed it is invalid, it does not exist and it will not be remembered in the history of mankind. [end recording]

[Mishori] After a day of debate the coalition and the opposition were unable to agree on the concluding proposal and the foreign minister saw fit to explain the reasoning for the legislation of the Golan Heights Law:

[Begin Shamir recording] Let us remind everybody what would have happended if that strip of land in the Golan Heights had not been in our hands when the Yom Kippur war broke out. Every objective expert will testify that, in this case, the country's fate would have been in grave danger. This is the basis of the national agreement that we will never come down from the Golan Heights, this is the basis of the decision by the government and the Knesset that this is how it will be in the future, under the law and not under a military conquest which, in the nature of things, is temporary. Despite this resolution and those preceding it in the United Nations, Israel will continue to follow its path, the path for peace and security. We have often declared and we continue to recall that we are prepared at any time to enter into negotiations, without any preconditions, with all our neighbors in order to sign peace agreements with them. [end recording]

[Mishori] Former Foreign Minister MK Abba Eban, Alignment, called the UN resolution the worst resolution of all. He was not, however, pessimistic about Israel's remaining in the UN:

[Begin Eban recording] Members of the Knesset, I do not propose that we exaggerate the weight of that resolution by discussing it by delegitimization [last word in English] or estimating the possibilities for Israel's expulsion from the United Nations. The assembly's resolution of May 1949 accepting Israel into the United Nations is an act that cannot be retracted -- it is a reality and even its creators are not free to cancel it. Israel's legitimacy does not exist in a vacuum, nor is it dependent upon further confirmation from international institutions, from the rejectionist countries or from any other source. There is no danger of Israel being expelled from the United Nations because three of the countries that voted against the resolution are permanent members of the Security Council. [end recording]

[Mishori] As I said, the large factions agree in their condemnation of the UN resolution. The Alignment's proposal for a conclusion is perhaps sharper, but MK Eban returns to the pretext for the UN attack against Israel, the legislation of the Golan Heights Law. It was not needed, Eban said; we did not gain a milligram of strength as a result of it, yet tons of mud have been thrown against Israel's status in the world because of it.

[Begin Eban recording] The attempt to present Israel as though there is total unanimity, among the Knesset members, when there is not, is not worthy of any support. Within a few weeks -- without any addition of a tree, a hut, a settler in the Golan Heights in the wake of the law -- complications have been created in all spheres of our international situation. [end recording]

[Mishori] And, after speakers Shamir and Eban, MK Victor Shem-Tov of Mapam repeated his faction's position, MK Pinhas Goldstein, Likud, attacked the Alignment, which worked less than responsibly, as he phrased it, and took advantage of an opportunity to undermine the government. MK Yosef Rom, Likud, proposed that, as a reaction to the UN resolution, the UN institutions should be removed from Jerusalem. The concluding proposals will be brought to a vote tomorrow.

UN Resolution Denounced

TA101222 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Feb 82

[Text] At noon, the Knesset rejected and denounced the UN resolution on the Golan Heights, stating it was a wicked, amoral and invalid resolution. The Knesset expressed its appreciation to the 20 free countries that opposed the decision of the automatic majority at the United Nations. Forty-two members of the alignment and Shinuy abstained and only the Hadash faction voted against it. Prior to the vote, Foreign Minister Shamir leveled harsh criticism at the Alignment for its refusal to join in a unanimous resolution. According to Shamir, people may rejoice about it on the other side of the northern border. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1150 GMT said the vote was 61 in favor of denouncing the resolution, 3 were opposed and 42 abstained.]

JORDAN TO MAKE 'GREATER EFFORT' TO CURB TERRORISM

TA091057 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Feb 82 pp 1, 15

[Report by Ilan Kefir, Ya'Aqov Erez and Raif Mann]

[Excerpts] Jordan has informed Israel via the United States that it will make a greater effort to curb terrorist activity originating from its territory. The Jordanian message was conveyed to Jerusalem in the wake of a warning issued by Jerusalem that Israel will not be able to acquiesce in the resumption of terrorist activity or in cease-fire violations. Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon yesterday told UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart that Israel will not refrain from reacting if the terrorists operate against Israeli targets on the borders. Prime Minister Menahem Begin and the defense minister met yesterday with U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis and discussed with him the situation on the northern border. U.S. Envoy Philip Habib will return to the Middle East within 2 weeks to continue his efforts to resolve the Lebanon crisis.

Jordan has informed Israel, following the latter's warning, that the terrorists' activity was carried out contrary to its desire and that the terrorists entered Jordan from Syria under the guise of tourists. Israel requested that the United States obtain a more firm Jordanian commitment and more rigorous action by Amman against the terrorists' aim of operating from the eastern border. In diplomatic contacts between Washington and Amman, Jordan undertook to conduct vigorous activity to block terrorism from its territory.

Menahem Begin and Ari'el Sharon yesterday briefed Ambassador Lewis about the situation in the north and noted the gravity with which Israel views the terrorists' deployment under the cover of the cease-fire and their frequent violations of that agreement. The U.S. envoy expressed his country's position that Israel must show maximum restraint in the face of what is happening on the northern border. The United States, he said, is working to calm the situation -- it is also in diplomatic contact with Lebanon to this end -- and is requesting Israel not to take any unilateral step.

Ambassador Lewis returned yesterday from a brief visit to Jordan which was termed a private one. During the visit, however, he apparently also dealt with political matters relating to the situation on the northern and eastern borders.

ARENS INTERVIEWED ON ISRAELI-U.S. RELATIONS

TA060918 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 6 Feb 82

[Report on the "Weekly Newsreel" on interview with ambassador-designate to the United States, Prof Moshe Arens, by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, place and date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Prof Moshe Arens will soon depart for Washington as Israel's seventh ambassador to the United States. I talked to Professor Arens prior to his departure for his new assignment. Before departing for the U.S. capital, he took part in the deliberations on the Lavi aircraft. The decision was made to proceed with production in Israel. This, too, was a topic we discussed.

[Question] Some say that a good ambassador is one who can defend the positions of his superiors and at the same time defend the host country's views. What kind of ambassador will you make?

[Answer] As a greenhorn in diplomatic work, I will give myself a satisfactory grade if I can make sure there are no misunderstandings; in other words, if I can guarantee that the positions of Israel are known in Washington and that the U.S. views are known in Jerusalem. I will give myself a good grade if I can guarantee an understanding of these positions -- that is, that people in Washington comprehend the motivation and the basis of our positions and vice versa. I will give myself a very good grade -- perhaps even excellent -- if I can bring about an agreement [haskama] at least on a number of issues and can lead Jerusalem and Washington to actually share identical positions so that we can work in harmony in an attempt to obtain common goals.

[Question] In Israeli-U.S. relations, another term that has been commonly used over the last few months is suprises. The U.S. administration has repeatedly asked the Israeli Cabinet not to present it with surprises. If, for instance, Israel should decide to take action in Lebanon and eliminate the problem of the terrorists or launch another military operation, do you think it will be your job to talk to the leaders of the administration before that action is taken?

[Answer] I would not use quite these terms. I do believe, however, that it is my job to make sure that the U.S. public, and certainly the U.S. administration, understand what our problem in Lebanon actually is and why, in the long run, we will not be able to accept those cannons and rocket-launchers being aimed at the northern part of the country.

[Question] Do you think this will be one of the things you will deal with in the initial period of your tour in Washington?

[Answer] I assume I will deal with this not only during the initial period, because it is clear to me that the Lebanon issue will be one that will continue to involve us as well as the United States. Both of us have for many years been interested in what is taking place there. The reason for this is the shaky, unstable situation there and the presence of PLO forces in Lebanon, as well as the fact that Lebanon has been turned into a center for international terrorism. The Syrian invasion of Lebanon is also a cause of concern. I imagine you, too, will certainly be busy with this topic for a long time to come. Regarding surprises, I must naturally present in Washington the other side of the coin, too. We, too, have a bone to pick with the United States about decisions affecting us which sometimes were not discussed with us in advance and which we heard about after the fact.

[Question] What do you have in mind?

[Answer] I mean in particular, of course, the decisions on the supply of arms to the Arab armies and the discussion over the AWACS and the F-15 accessories which was held only after the U.S. Government had already decided to sell them to Saudi Arabia. All this was done without prior consultation with us, and yet it was crystal clear to the United States that this affects us and might one day endanger us.

[Question] And is that why you think the United States should consult with Israel before it decides to give an Arab country arms?

[Answer] Any subject, any decision or any move made by the U.S. administration which affects us directly, or, let us say, certainly any move that might entail a security danger to Israel -- on this I believe we have the right to ask the United States to hold prior consultations with us.

[Question] As is well known, the United States has not yet revoked the suspension of the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation, as well as other agreements having to do with defense, trade and industrial cooperation. Given this, how do you regard Israeli-U.S. relations?

[Answer] My impression -- and at this stage it is nothing more than that -- is that there is some subtle desire both here and in Washington not to kill that agreement, and to revive it one of these days, probably in the not too distant future. It seems to me that it would be advisable to rejuvenate it, but on one condition: that both parties believe it is to their advantage, that it is not only a gift one party gives to the other, but one that serves the interests of both countries. It seems to me that this is basically the approach both in the United States and in Israel.

[Question] What about the continued suspension of certain issues pertaining to, to military issues, to matters that have to do with armaments?

[Answer] I presume that if the agreement is revived and is implemented, then all these questions will have been answered.

[Question] Meanwhile, is it business as usual?

[Answer] Meanwhile, it is business as usual, and it is not bad at all.

[Question] Professor Arens, you leave for the United States before the completion of the withdrawal from the Sinai and already there is talk that after April new political initiatives will be made to achieve a comprehensive agreement in the Middle East. Are you aware that the United States could bring about the incorporation of additional elements into the negotiations, which is not in agreement with the Camp David accords?

[Answer] If you had not supplemented your question with the last phrase I would have answered in the affirmative, since the Camp David accords themselves include the possibility -- in fact the desire -- of the signatories to broaden its framework, as you well know. But if you are talking about going beyond the Camp David agreements, then I am not aware of this at all; on the contrary, everything we have heard from the most authoritative U.S. representatives is that the United States is committed to the Camp David accords, and to them alone.

[Question] When the Egyptian president urged the United States to lead a call for mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestinians, or mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, are you not disturbed by this call?

[Answer] Certainly I am, and especially since it comes from the president of Egypt, because this is not in line with the Camp David accords. I have no reason to be bothered insofar as the U.S. reaction is concerned, becuase I have not heard of a U.S. reaction agreeing with Mubarak's statements -- nor do I expect such a reaction. His call certainly constitutes a deviation from everything stipulated in the Camp David accords. As you know, this does not appear there at all.

[Question] Do you not hink this call will meet with approval in the United States?

[Answer] I hope not, because it would be difficult for me to conceive of the United States reneging on its commitments.

[Schiffer] Cautiousness can already be discerned in Professor Arens' remarks. Nobless oblige. On Israeli-U.S. relations, he said: They are nearly those of allies. I don't believe that the U.S. administration will use Lavi components, which will be manufactured jointly with U.S. companies, as a means to act against Israel. At any rate, he added, we are immune: the engine will be produced in Israel. On the decision made this week by the ministers of defense and finance to develop the Lavi aircraft, he says: This is an historic decision. This is not selling the same merchandise the second time around, as the minister of communication charged.

[Arens] I regret the criticism, because really this is an important decision -- one, in my opinion, of almost historic significance even though this is a technological matter: an aircraft. All the credit and esteem should be given to the people who took the responsibility and made this decision, primarily the prime minister, who has -- as far as I know -- favored this ever since he began serving as prime minister, as far back as in the previous government, and encouraged it and helped push it forward. Credit should also go to former Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and [former] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori and most definitely to all those ministers who took upon themselves the responsibility for the final, detailed decision -- and these are Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and Finance Minister Yoram Aridor. This was not an easy decision, nor was it identical to, or simply a repetition of earlier decisions. The decision made when Weizman was defense minister concerned a slightly different type of aircraft than the present one; then the aircraft in question was somewhat smaller, and its engine was supposed to be the GE 40. But the deliberations since then pointed, in my opinion, in the right direction. It is a good thing that we reached this conclusion in time, namely that the aircraft must be bigger, that the 404 engine is not large enough, and that we switched to the Pratt-Whitney 1120. Today there are specifications for the Lavi aircraft, which in my opinion are better, and better suited to the air force's requirements. In my opinion, everyone should rejoice over this decision and accord esteem and appreciation to everyone who had a role in it.

[Question] With your permission, I will ask you a couple of personal questions in anticipation of your departure for Washington. You are leaving for the U.S. capital without having any experience within the Foreign Ministry establishment. How do you foresee your job in Washington? Whom will you report to: the foreign minister, or the prime minister, or both? How will this take place?

[Answer] While serving as ambassador in Washington, I will be a Foreign Ministry employee and my superior will be the foreign minister.

I believe I am leaving for the United States with one advantage -- and most probably with a lot of disadvantages compared to my predecessors in terms of qualifications and certainly with respect to the professional experience in this business -- but still with one advantage which seems to me none of my predecessors had. That advantage is the direct and close relationship, as well as the ideological agreement, with the prime minister and with key Cabinet ministers -- the defense minister, the finance minister and certainly the foreign minister. So it seems to me that both my ability to understand what they have in mind as well as my ability to explain this and also to have an influence here on what should be done will be greater than that of a professional ambassador.

[Question] Are you not worried by the possibility that the prime minister will conduct foreign policy -- at least as far as the United States is concerned -- from Jerusalem together with the U.S. ambassador here, Mr Lewis?

[Answer] No, I am not worried at all by such things because I do not think there should be competition between the Israeli ambassador in Washington and the U.S. ambassador in Jerusalem. These are two parallel channels of transmitting information between Jerusalem and Washington, and it is important that both function and operate without causing too many problems in the system and without distorting the information being passed through those lines. If these two channels are really active and do this job, then as far as I am concerned it makes no difference what the volume of information passing through the channel from Washington to Jerusalem is -- my channel -- versus the volume of information being transmitted through the channel to Washington, which is Sam Lewis' channel.

[Question] How do you envision your relations with the U.S. Jewry? Do you intend to activate it for the sake of Israel? Do you regard it as an ally or something that complements your work?

[Answer] There are certainly many people in the U.S. who are Israeli sympathizers; there are even many who love Israel, and not all of them are Jewish. Among the Jewish population the percentage of Israeli sympathizers and lovers or people who feel a commitment to Israel is very large; therefore, the Israeli ambassador certainly has a special affinity with those people.

[Question] How will you use that connection?

[Answer] Look, you are actually asking me to provide you with specifics and I think you are putting the cart before the horse. It is necessary to first get there, study the subject, and maybe during my next visit I could detail my plans.

[Question] How long do you intend to do this job?

[Answer] You know that I will be the seventh ambassador, as MK Eban reminded me. That means that in the last 33 years there were six ambassadors. If you calculate -- if you have a pocket calculator -- you will find out that 33 divided by six is 5 and 1/2 years; this is the average tenure of our ambassadors there. I can assure you that upon my return the average stay will be lower.

EGYPTS REJECTS DEMARCATION PLAN FOR RAFAH

TA091045 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Feb 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by military correspondent Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] The Egyptians have rejected all the compromise proposals put forward by Israel for the demarcation of the international border within the town of Rafah. The Israeli proposals are aimed at preventing any injurious effects to the local residents. The Egyptians are insisting that the boundary be set as it was in 1906, without taking into account the development of the town and its surroundings in the years since. The Egyptians have also rejected compromise proposals concerning the area surrounding Tabah, near Elat.

If the Egyptians do not agree to soften their position, many dozens of homes will have to be demolished, hundreds of families will have to be evacuated, and orchards and cultivated land will be ruined. In the meantime, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon has ordered that nothing be done which could adversely affect the local population, saying that it will be better if the other side evacuates the residents on the border and not the IDF.

All the efforts by Israeli representatives to convince the Egyptians to accept a flexible formula -- which will take into consideration the local population when the new boundary is demarcated -- have failed. Mr Sharon's proposals during his recent visit to Egypt were limited to Egypt's agreeing to set up a special subcommittee which will discuss the Rafah border and the dispute at Tabah and at other places in Sinai. Several meetings have been held, but all the Israeli proposals have been rejected out of hand. Unofficial feelers extended outside the committee have also been turned down.

The Egyptians have evidently decided to disregard the suffering of the local population. They undoubtedly assume that in the end Israel will be blamed for causing the demarcation problems. There are already indications that Egypt is directing media representatives to this sensitive issue.

Israel has put forward various proposals in order to limit the harm to the population, from local exchanges of territory in order to allow a winding borderline, to the possibility of declaring a "free zone" along the border fence. All these suggestions have been rejected by the Egyptians. They say their land is sacred and they cannot forgo even one centimeter of territory. Therefore, they cannot deviate from the boundary that was decided in 1906. In addition, they are saying in informal talks, that Israel has no right to hand over or exchange territory that does not belong to Israel but to the Palestinians. In these talks they have even said that if they were to receive from Israel any land from Rafah, in the Gaza Strip, they would hand it over to the Palestinians.

The Egyptians know that Israel usually sets up a sophisticated fence along its borders to prevent terrorist incursions and smuggling attempts. Such a fence will also be erected on the southern border. Its construction will necessitate the evacuation of territory tens of meters wide along the Gaza Strip border. Another possibility is to construct the fence in the rear of Rafah, but this would cause the local residents considerable difficulties during security checks when they go to work in Israel or even in the Gaza Strip.

Israel has expressed amazement at the Egyptians' indifference to the suffering of the Arab population. It is noted that Israel will in any event agree to compensate the residents of the Canadian refugee camp because it was Israel that moved them there and helped them construct residential neighborhoods 10 years ago. Israel expects that Egypt will also do its part to alleviate the problems of the Arab population. Mr Sharon's current order is not to harm the Arab population and to wait until the Egyptians show some generosity toward them. In the event that an evacuation becomes necessary, it will be better if Egypt, not Israel, expels the residents.

There are now some 80,000 persons in the Rafah region. Of them, 36,000 are Palestinians who were residents there before 1948, 38,000 are Palestinian refugees and 6,000 are Egyptian subjects. The population of Rafah itself is 50,000, of which 38,000 are refugees and the rest are local Palestinians or Egyptians.

TRANSPORTATION TALKS WITH EGYPT BEGIN 8 FEB

TA082020 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Feb 82

[Text] Talks about transportation issues between Israel and Egypt began in Jerusalem this morning. Transportation experts from Israel and Egypt will be meeting for 3 days and will try to agree on the fees to be paid by Israeli trucks that will cross to Egypt, the departure of Israeli ships to the shores of southern Sinai, as well as arrangements for operating the bus route from Tel Aviv to Cairo.

Talks End After Disagreement

TA091643 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 9 Feb 82

[Text] A dispute over the price of fuel to be paid by drivers of Israeli trucks in Egypt today brought a halt to the talks about normalization in traffic between Israel and Egypt.

Arye Grozbord heads the Israeli delegation in those talks.

[Begin Grozbord recording] A demand to pay the difference between the price at the Egyptian stations and the Israeli stations has no connection with the fuel's price to the Egyptians. We are certainly prepared for Israelis to pay the amount of the subsidy that the Egyptians pay, but we definitely do not want a sort of fee to be imposed, in addition to this, on an Israeli truck, a fee that will prevent it from being able to compete. [end recording]

The Ministry of Transport said that agreements have been achieved on other issues, but because no agreement whatsoever was achieved on the issue of fuel, there was no point in signing the agreement. The Egyptian delegation will, therefore, return to Egypt without signing the agreement and the matter will be transferred to a higher level.

[Begin Grozbord recording] The talks have have been stopped for the moment and the Egyptians are returning to Egypt with the Israeli proposals, for discussions with their ministers. The matter may have to be solved by the Supreme Ministerial Committee. [end recording]

MA'ARIV: RESTRAINT IN LEBANON JUSTIFIED

TA091258 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Feb 82 p 5

[Commentary by Shemu'el Segev: "The visit to Juniyah and the restraint in Lebanon"]

[Text] Without going into the truth or falsity of the report in this week's TIME magazine about a meeting held in Juniyah between Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and the commander of the Phalangists in Lebanon, Bashir al-Jumayyil, the fact is that Israel last week took preparedness measures on its northern border.

Naturally, no one expected a "Palestinian offensive." It was difficult to imagine that just when Syria was waging a political campaign in the United Nations, President Hafiz al-Asad would violate the cease-fire on the Golan, just as it was difficult to imagine that just when Finance Minister Yoran Aridor was fighting for his budget, the Defense Ministry would decide to do some "muscle flexing" without actually using those muscles -- a move that would slice millions of shekels from the defense budget. Therefore, it must be concluded that Israel in fact did intend to launch some sort of operation in southern Lebanon.

Nevertheless, Israel did not carry out an operation, since it cannot launch a major offensive against the terrorists' bastions in southern Lebanon without isolating itself completely and intolerably in the international arena since the Golan Heights Law has already caused Israel to lose much of its freedom of action in Lebanon. Instead, Israel dispatched a special emissary to Washington to explain to the heads of the State Department the gravity with which Israel views the systematic reinforcement of the terrorists' deployment in Lebanon.

Israel and the United States agreed in their evaluations of this reinforcement. In the past 8 months the United States has had various opportunities to take note of the flow of Soviet, Libyan and Syrian arms into the terrorists' camps, just as it was able to follow the systematic changes in the terrorists' deployment between the Litani and the Zaharani. As part of its means of supervising the cease-fire in Sinai and on the Golan, the United States employs U-2 aircraft, based in Cyprus. These could easily detect the changes in the terrorists' deployment. For the United States, however, the main thing is not the reinforcement of the Palestinians' strength, but the preservation of the cease-fore -- a fact which was made abundantly clear to the Israeli envoy.

This U.S. stand did not come as a surprise to Israel. Ever since Philip Habib arranged the cease-fire in southern Lebanon on 13 July 1981, the United States has regarded it as a considerable achievement just to maintain the calm on the northern border.

But in the meantime the Golan Law was passed, and the United States became fearful that Israel was "plotting" a flare-up that would drag Syria into a war, entangle Egypt and give Israel a pretext for delaying the Sinai evacuation.

Any apprehension about a delay in the evacuation has been dispelled, but the fear about Israel's intention in the north remains, and it is this that continues to prevent a lifting of the suspension of the U.S.-Israeli memorandum of strategic understanding.

The harsh UN resolution provides retrospective justification for Prime Minister Begin's decision to act with restraint on the northern border. From various diplomatic talks, the Israel Government came to understand that any massive operation against terrorist concentrations in southern Lebanon would bring in its wake and immediate cancellation of the visits of Presidents Mitterrand and Mubarak, and would chill the normalization processes between Israel and Egypt.

It may be assumed that an Israeli reprisal operation in Lebanon would also not have brought about the current visit to Israel by the Egyptian chief of staff, just as it would have caused the postponement of next month's visit by Egypt's defense minister. Moreover, the UN resolution would have been used as the basis for a harsher resolution, one which would also have gained the support of the European countries.

The unnecessary Golan Law has thus seriously entrapped Israel by greatly restricting its freedom of action in the security sphere and its political freedom of maneuver as well. Given this situation, the question is what Israel can do in the coming weeks and months without severely endangering its security. Despite the suspicions about Israeli intentions, Israel can do what the Syrians and the terrorists in Lebanon do: promote those issues which are not covered by the cease-fire and which are likely to be of help in the future -- such as cultivating ties with the Christians in Lebanon.

The Western press consistently reports that the contacts between Israel and the Phalangists have never been severed. The Saudi and Kuwaiti pressure on Bashir al-Jumayyil is one thing, but the facts of life are something else entirely, and those facts have shown Al-Jumayyil on numerous occasions in recent weeks that the Christians' physical well-being cannot be made dependent on the good will of the Syrians or the Palestinians. Al-Jumayyil, his public declaration of having severed all ties with Israel notwithstanding, was convinced that he must not break off those ties, the more so because if he did sever them, another Lebanese leader would likely push him out of the leadership position.

The TIME report on Defense Minister Sharon's visit to the port of Juniyah apparently indicates the possibility of a strengthening of the Israeli alliance with the Christians in Lebanon during the transition period until the completion of the Sinai withdrawal. If so, it would be a vital substitute for the terrorists' barren provacations in one sector or another. [sentence as published]

So essential has it become to dispel the suspicions about Israel's intentions that this justifies continued Israeli restraint as long as no Palestinian attach has been launched against the northern settlements. After all, the terrorists will not disappear even after Israel has completed its Sinai withdrawal. If Israel operates against them after the withdrawal, its action will be regarded not only as essential but also as wholly justified.

POLL SHOWS BEGIN, SHARON EQUAL IN POPULARITY

TA090825 Jerusalem POST in English 9 Feb 82 p 3

[Report by political correspondent Mark Segal]

[Text] Tel Aviv -- Ari'el Sharon's popularity as defence minister has slipped and he is now on a par with Premier Menahem Begin, whose high standing with the public as prime minister has been slightly dented. However, they continue to remain far ahead of any other rival. Finance Minister Yoram Aridor comes third, and former Premier Yitzhaq Rabin remains steadily ahead of Labour Party Chairman Shim'on Peres. Former Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman is still a popular choice for most senior Cabinet offices. The above data emerged from the Jerusalem POST poll conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Institute of Research among a representative selection of 1,301 adults toward the end of January:

Question: Who is best suited to be prime minister?

	Jan 82	Nov 81	Sept 81	July 81	June 81
Menahem Begin	41.5	45.1	46.4	45.3	43.7
Yitzhaq Rabin	12.8	11.3	14.8	15.0	23.9
Shim'on Peres	7.4	7.9	9.2	10.4	13.2
'Ezer Weizman	2.0	1.3	1.4	1.1	0.5
Others	7.9	2.9	4.9	3.6	4.8
Undecided	22.7	24.8	12.4	14.8	13.9

Institute director Dr Sara Shemer noted that despite the slight dip in Begin's popularity, he enjoys higher support than Rabin -- and five times more than Peres. Begin's strongest support comes from young voters, lower income groups, housewives, people from Islamic countries, and religious and traditional people, while Labour derives its greatest support from the upper socio-economic groups.

Question: Who is best suited to be defence minister?

	Jan 82	Nov 81	Sept 81	July 81	June 81
Ari'el Sharor	41.5	49.6	47.0	39.5	29.7
'Ezer Weizman	10.7	8.6	8.9	5.8	10.4
Yitzhaq Rabin	5.6	4.6	9.0	14.2	7.8
Hayim Bar-Lev	3.7	4.9	6.1	8.8	10.5
Mordekhay Gur	3.7	2.6	2.2	1.1	2.0
Refa'el Eytan	1.5	-	-	-	-
Others	8.4	3.5	4.6	5.4	8.0
Undecided	24.9	25.2	18.9	22.9	29.0

Shemer noted that despite his decline, Sharon enjoys a seven-fold advantage over Rabin. Sharon also enjoys most favour among the young and those of North African and Asian origin.

Question: Who is best suited to be foreign minister?

	Jan 82	Nov 81	Sept 81	July 81	June 81
Yitzhaq Shamir	32.3	31.2	28.0	27.3	27.0
Abba Eban	20.7	19.1	26.0	23.3	23.6
'Ezer Weizman	2.5	2.1	1.5	-	-
Yitzhaq Rabin	2.2	2.6	2.9	1.1	1.0
Hayim Herzog	2.1	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.2
Moshe Arens	1.0	1.2	-	-	-
Others	9.6	5.5	4.9	5.6	4.4
Undecided	29.6	36.8	35.2	33.4	36.0

Eban remains the only opposition politician who consistently comes anywhere close to an incumbent minister. Shamir enjoys the support of the traditional Likud constituency and Eban that of Labor.

Question: Who is best suited to be finance minister?

	Jan 82	Nov 81	Sept 81	July 81	June 81
Yoram Aridor	36.3	30.4	35.0	35.9	33.1
Yiga'el Hurvitz	6.7	6.3	7.8	4.9	6.0
Ya'aqov Levinson	2.7	3.5	5.9	3.7	2.4
Hayim Ben-Shahar	2.3	5.8	11.6	16.8	17.0
Simha Ehrlich	1.8	-	-	-	-
Others	9.9	5.8	5.7	4.5	3.0
Undecided	40.3	48.2	34.0	34.3	37.6

The highest number of undecided are found in this category where the incumbent's popularity is rising. Aridor's predecessor, Hurvitz, is way behind while Labour's shadow finance minister Ben-Shahar appears to be disappearing from public memory.

REPORTAGE ON OAU COMMITTEE ON SAHARA MEETING

Third Session

EA091314 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] The third session of the OAU implementation committee on Western Sahara began at 9 o'clock last night and ended at 10:45 pm. The session, which was chaired by the OAU chairman, His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi, received statements from Morocco and the Polisario Front delegations. The statements were in connection with the report submitted by the ministerial committee on Western Sahara. Another session of the implementation committee begins this morning at 9 o'clock.

Polisario Delegation

LD091130 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Nairobi, 9 Feb (APS) -- The work of the first day of the Nairobi short summit devoted to the modalities of the application of a selfdetermination referendum in Western Sahara ended yesterday night at the end of a third session which witnessed both parties in the conflict, the Polisario Front and Morocco present before the OAU committee.

After the beginning of the summit, the heads of state members of the committee or their representatives, started by the examination, during a session behind closed doors, of the three documents submitted by the foreign affairs ministers. These documents are relating to the cease-fire, to the referendum of selfdetermination, to its modalities and the possibilities of an OAU and UN collaboration as to the setting up of an intermediary administration and a peace keeping force.

At the end of the examination of these documents the heads of state decided to impart them to both parties in conflict before hearing both belligerents, notably on the questions of a cease-fire and the modalities of a referendum.

The first party in conflict to speak was Morocco, whose delegation led by Mr Boucetta, foreign affairs minister, was heard for nearly an hour.

When coming out of the meeting, the head of the Moroccan diplomacy, declared to the journalists that "it is attempted to reconsider the decisions taken on August in Nairobi". He affirmed that Morocco "refused to withdraw its troops and its administration from Western Sahara", and that it is not disposed to "negotiate" with the Polisario Front.

The committee heard besides the secretary general of the Polisario Front and his delegation Mr Abdelaziz declared, while going out of the conference that -- (?hopefully) before the implementing committee, the firm position of the Polisario Front and the Saharan people as to the issue of a peaceful and just solution of the Saharan problem on the basis of its inalienable rights to selfdetermination and independence. [sentence as received]

"The actual step is characterized by the absolute necessity of direct negotiations between the Polisario Front and Morocco", Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz added. "It is the only serious way to reach a global peace accord and an application of the OAU and U.N. resolutions" the Polisario Front secretary general said, before revealing that the Polisario Front is ready to start negotiations with Morocco immediately.

Boucetta Address

LD091330 Rabat MAP in English 1225 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Nairobi, 9 Feb (MAP) -- The Organization of African Unity (OAU) implementation committee on the Sahara devoted its Monday night session to listening to Morocco's viewpoints and observations on the document submitted to the Moroccan delegation.

Mr M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan state minister for foreign affairs, took the floor to renew the clear and non-equivocal stance expressed by King Hassan II of Morocco at the previous summit of heads of state and before the committee meeting held in Nairobi.

After recalling that Morocco was ready to cooperate with African brothers to restore peace in the north west African region, Mr Coucetta affirmed that the document submitted to the Moroccan delegation "is contrary to the form and the substance of the resolutions adopted."

This document, he said, is but a trap so that the referendum in the Sahara does not take place and wants to lead us to recognize what we will never recognize because it refers to "two parties." Mr Boucetta underlined that the resolution adopted in Nairobi by the committee is clear: no withdrawal of the Moroccan administration, no withdrawal of the Moroccan Army and no recognition of the so-called "Polisario."
Regarding direct negotiations (with the Polisario) Mr Boucetta quoted excerpts from the speech of King Hassan II before the OAU implementation committee in August 1981.

"Morocco believes that to be valid with regard to law and mainly to international law, these negotiations can only be held between states that are internationally recognized as able to commit themselves and susceptible to be sanctioned, if necessary, if they fail in their obligations. We know what direct negotiations are, and also what the violation of a commitment comprises."

Morocco intends to negotiate with Algeria and Mauritania who should commit themselves to make their frontiers impervious and ensure the reliability of the cease-fire, said the Moroccan state minister.

Mr Boucetta expressed regret at seeing the document talk about "the two parties" while all the other resolutions adopted in Nairobi only referred to "concerned parties" or to the parties.

Mr Boucetta recalled Morocco's stance based on juridical facts and moral arguments. "What had been agreed upon should not be reconsidered," he precised.

The Moroccan state minister underlined that the Polisario is not recognized as a liberation movement and the RASD [Saharan Democratic Arab Republic] as a state.

Mr Boucetta also recalled the meaning of the word "aggression" and of the world "aggressor" according to international law: "The country whose territory serves as a base for assailants is the aggressor... We know from where aggressors depart and where they return. We also know the place from where SAM-6 are launched," he said.

"In Morocco, there are 120 Algerian prisoners who are soldiers and officers belonging to the Algerian regular army. These prisoners were caught on the territory of the Moroccan Sahara. They are being regularly visited by the International Red Cross. They receive mail from their families: "I ask Mister President that the word 'two parties' be suppressed from the whole text of the document," precised the Moroccan state minister.

At the end of the first intervention of Mr Boucetta, President arap Moi who is the current chairman of the OAU asked the leader of the Moroccan delegation to make his observations regarding the technicalities of the cease-fire and the referendum.

Taking the floor once again, Mr Boucetta recalled that Morocco committed itself, through the voice of King Hassan II, to accept the referendum and to guarantee its objectivity and sincerity. He said that the document does not take into account this commitment and that it twists the resolutions adopted in Nairobi. The Moroccan administration will be put at the disposal of the committee. In this respect, Mr Boucetta read some passages of the message King Hassan II addressed on September 26 to Mr Daniel arap Moi, acting chairman of the OAU.

The Moroccan state minister also recalled the response of King Hassan II on the temporary administration in his intervention before the committee last August.

To conclude Mr Boucetta said "we want this referendum as soon as possible. If you decide the cease-fire we accept it as early as tomorrow, if you fix the date of the referendum for tomorrow we also accept it."

At the end of this intervention and after the Moroccan delegation left the conference hall, the committee carried on its works.

Update on Proceedings

EA091622 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] The OAU heads of state implementation committee meeting on Western Sahara resumed this morning at the Kenyatta international conference center under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi, who is the current chairman of the pan-African body. The closed-door session, which entered its second day today, started at 0900 and lasted for 6 hours.

The session was attended by President Sekou Toure of Guinea; President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania; President Shehu Shagari of Nigeria and President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria. President Bendjedid has left for home. [as heard]

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 1400 and will reconvene at 1700 today.

Meanwhile, several other heads of state will arrive in Nairobi tomorrow to attend a meeting on Chad. President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and Gen Andre Kolingba of the Central African Republic will arrive in Nairobi at 0900 tomorrow morning. Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda is due to arrive 2 hours later. The meeting will also be attended by members of the standing committee on Chad as well as countries that had sent military observer troops to Chad. The standing committee on Chad comprises Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Guinea, Libya, Nigeria, Sierre Leone, Senegal, Sudan, Togo and the CAR. Some heads of state currently in Nairobi for the meeting of the implementaiton committee on Western Sahara will remain in Nairobi for the summit on Chad.

Cease-fire Timetable

EA092018 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] The OAU heads of state implementation committee meeting on Western Sahara was tonight adjourned sine die. The assembly adopted the document on a cease-fire in Western Sahara and agreed on the time the cease-fire will come into effect. The minisummit approved the amendment to the document presented by the ministers on the referendum in the territory.

The chairman of the OAU, His Escellency President Daniel arap Moi, said at the closing session that the minisummit had adopted the document on the cease-fire unanimously.

The closing session was attended by President Shehu Shagari of Nigeria; President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania; President Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea; the vice president and minister for finance, Mr Mwai Kibaki; two ministers of state in the office of the president, Mr Nicholas Biwott and Mr G.G. Kariuki; and the minister for foreign affairs, Dr Robert Ouko.

AFP Account

AB091900 Paris AFP in English 1851 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Nairobi, Feb 9 (AFP) -- The Organisation of African Unity mini-summit on the Western Sahara ended tonight with the adoption of a timetable for a ceasefire and means for holding a referendum on self-determination in the disputed territory.

Details of the decision were not immediately reported, but earlier one member of a delegation at the two day conference said [words indistinct] there were only slim hopes of a settlement.

Meeting participants also authorized Daniel arap Moi, OAU and committee head and president of Kenya, to continue negotiations with the parties to the conflict and concerned parties, President Ahmed Sekou Toure said.

Mr Moi, in adjourning the meeting of the OAU working committee on the Western Sahara, said: "We have not mentioned the parties in the conflict by name although we all know who are the parties." [Words indistinct] said, that the committee had named the two parties -- the Polisario and Morocco -- for the first time despite Morocco's objections. Morocco does not recognize the Polisario and has refused to negotiate directly with the guerrillas.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID RETURNS 9 FEB FROM NAIROBI MEETING

LD092352 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, FLN secretary general, returned home from Nairobi tonight after attending the followup work meeting of the committee for the implementation of a referendum for self-determination in Western Sahara at the invitation of Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, current OAU chairman.

En route from Nairobi, the president stopped over in the capital of Niger where he was met at Niamey airport by Col Seyni Kountche, president of the Supreme Military Council and of the state of Niger.

ANC CHAIRMAN HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS

PM081543 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 28 Jan 82 p 12

[APS report]

[Text] Algiers -- "The year 1982 will be the year of united action by all South African patriots and of stepping up the armed struggle against the Pretoria racist regime," African National Congress [ANC] Chairman Oliver Tambo stated in Algiers yesterday during a press conference held in the lounge of the Aurassi Hotel.

Speaking to representatives of the liberation movements accredited in Algiers and journalists from the national and international press, the ANC chairman said his visit to Algeria enabled him to have high-level talks with Algerian officials and particularly with the head of state, President Chadli Bendjedid.

"My visit to Algeria is the first in a series which will take me to several friendly countries in 1982, a year which, as you know, marks the 70th anniversary of our struggle, and these visits will be aimed at reminding the international community that the struggle in South Africa started several decades ago.

"We have decided," Tambo added, "to launch a series of actions aimed at stepping up our struggle to dismantle the apartheid regime -- the most barbarous regime mankind has ever produced.

"These actions are already taking shape in view of the increased repression of our population by the racist regime. But repression is nothing new to us," Tambo added, because "we know that an offensive is being planned against our people. The racist regime has drawn up a system for planning murders and we also know that Pretoria has recruited huge numbers of mercenaries to carry out actions to destabilize the neighboring countries."

After condemning the support given to the Pretoria racist regime by some Western countries, especially the United States, Oliver Tambo asked "all peace and freedom-loving countries to help the southern African peoples who are the victims of Pretoria's barbarous attacks."

Tambo then pointed to the struggles of the peoples of the West Sahara, Palestine, Namibia, El Salvador, East Timor and the Canary Islands -- "struggles," he said, "which are rendered even more difficult by the policy of the new American administration." "It is clear that imperialism is the source of all our ills," Oliver Tambo concluded.

The ANC chairman, in reply to journalists' question, then stated, with regard to the attitude of the new majority in France, that "the ANC attaches great importance to France's position in the 'contact group' on Namibia." "We do not expect France to sacrifice one principle," he added.

With regard to the OAU's attitude on the Namibian question, Tambo said: "We don't want the OAU to become a third or fourth party because the OAU is involved in the conflict. Namibia is the responsibility of the United Nations. The OAU should exert pressure on the countries in the 'contact group' which are major Pretoria commerical partners," he explained.

"The Western group's overall strategy is to isolate the Namibian people, to deprive them of international support, to isolate them from the United Nations and to deprive SWAPO of the support of the majority of UN members," Oliver Tambo concluded.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI MEETS ACADEMICS, DISCUSSES LEBANON

LD100406 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 10 Feb 82

[Text] The leader of the revolution yesterday evening met with 64 faculty members of various Lebanese universities. The brother leader affirmed that Lebanon is an arena embodying all forms of Arab interaction. If reflects the truth of Arab reality. The Lebanese people represent the vanguard of the Arab nation. They are experiencing the greatest of suffering and are struggling valiantly against the enemy. The brother leader said this raises our hope in the effectiveness of the Arab nation and its enormous ability to confront the difficulties and challenges it has been facing. With its resources and abilities, this nation is capable of confrontation and triumph.

The leaders explained that Lebanon today is passing through a tragic stage for the sake of the entire Arab nation. It stands on the frontline of confrontation with the evemy and is making sacrifices for the sake of the Arab nation. The leader said: The Lebanese people are fishing and paying a high price for the sake of the Palestinian cause, whereas the Arabs are standing around like spectators, as if what is happening in Lebanon doesn't concern the Arab nation. He said: Those just standing around are engaging in treason by virtue of their defeatist attitude. The leader of the revolution expressed his great appreciation for the heroic struggle being waged by the Lebanese people for the sake of the Arab nation and its freedom.

During the meeting, gifts symbolizing the internationalism of the Great 1 September Revolution and the internationalism of its ideology were presented to the leader. The academics affirmed to the leader of the revolution that they are loyal soldiers of the ideas of the Great 1 September Revolution and emissaries committed to spreading this civilizing ideology, which gives mankind the correct solution to all issues and problems, serves humanity and truly expresses the aspirations and hopes of the peoples.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES NICARAGUA'S WHEELOCK 9 FEB

LD100320 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 10 Feb 82

[Text] The leader of the revolution yesterday evening received Jaime Wheelock, member of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and minister of agriculture, development and agrarian reform of the Republic of Nicaragua, and his delegation now on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The Nicaraguan delegation affirmed that the third solution is the one being applied in all regions of Latin America to get rid of enslavement and to proceed quickly toward the broad horizons of freedom and final deliverance so as to enable the nations of this continent to confront the plots of imperialism which seeks to dominate their resources and aspiration.

ROMANIAN PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR ENDS VISIT

LD071648 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Feb 82

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Feb (JANA) -- Vasile Pungan, Romanian presidential counselor, left Tripoli at noon today after a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, during which he held contacts and discussions on relations between the two countries.

MAURITANIA

COUP FOILED 7 FEB WITH 'GREATEST DISCRETION'

AB091922 Paris AFP in French 1857 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Dakar, 9 Feb (AFP) -- No details are so far available in Dakar on the circumstances of the coup attempt [in Mauritania] which apparently took place without bloodshed and on the number of people arrested, reportedly including a certain number of officers.

The coup attempt was foiled with the greatest discretion, informed sources in Dakar announce and radio Nouakchott monitored in the Senegalese capital has made no mention of the coup in its newscasts since Sunday.

Further AFP Report

AB100852 Paris AFP in French 0743 GMT 10 Feb 82

[Text] Dakar, 10 Feb (AFP) -- On Wednesday morning, radio Nouakchott was still silent concerning the coup d'etat attempt foiled from Saturday night to Sunday in Mauritania. According to reports from Dakar, a number of persons have been arrested including Lieutenant Colonel Moustapha, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] and author of the coup d'etat which toppled former President Mocktar Ould Daddah in 1978, as well as Sidi Ahmed Ould Bneijara, former prime minister from December 1980 to April 1981, along with several officers.

Less than a year ago, in March 1981, the Mauritanian Government succeeded in foiling an attempted coup d'etat planned by pro-Moroccan Mauritanian opposition elements.

With regard to the conflict in Western Sahara which has figured prominently in Mauritanian domestic policy for several years, the orientation of the authors of last Sunday's abortive coup d'etat is not yet clear.

Although it constantly reaffirms its neutrality, Mauritania is often made to endure the repercussions of the conflict from which it withdrew by signing the July 1979 agreement with the Polisario and evacuating from the part of Western Sahara it had occupied for 3 years.

On many occasions, Morocco has threatened to intervene directly in Mauritania to check the infiltration of Polisario soldiers into Western Sahara from Mauritanian territory, observers recall. Mauritania, on its part, has always denied the existence of Saharan bases on its soil.

To the pro-Moroccan and pro-Saharan faction also can be added, within Mauritanian political circles and even within the CMSN itself, pro-Algerian, pro-Libyan and pro-Iraqi factions which periodically try, with some success, to influence the orientations of the country, both externally and internally. Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, CMSN chairman and head of state, has for 2 years tried to maintain a balance among all these factions. Thus, in December 1980, he announced the formation of a government comprising civilians and presided over by Bneijara. However, 4 months later, following an abortive coup by a pro-Moroccan commando in April 1981, he again entrusted the leadership of the government to the military. This same abortive coup also resulted in the consolidation of the Algerian position in Mauritania. Algeria supplied military aid to forestall any possible Moroccan attack.

Some observers in Dakar estimate that opposition to Algerian influence might be the cause of last Sunday's arrests.

OFFICIAL ADDRESSES CADRE MEETING 9 FEB

LD100024 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] The seminar of the development sector cadres resumed its work at noon today. Partcipants listened during the evening session today to a comprehensive review of Col Ahmed Mahmoud Ould el Hussein, permanent secretary of the Military Committee for National Salvation. He first explained that all the cadres' questions and enquiries during the seminar received the necessary answers, explanations and information through valuable reviews made by members of the committee supervising the seminar. And this is what these cadres were (?seeking) and it would make them safe from the influence of malicious propaganda and poisonous rumors.

The permanent secretary then talked about the gains realized under the aegis of the 10 July movement, noting the seriousness of the conditions in which the country lived on the eve of 9 July 1978 when bankruptcy reached its peak and the country stood on the brink of the abyss and the people lacked even minimum essential needs and means of subsistence. The permanent secretary said: That situation resulted from the collapse of the national economy and the loss of confidence in the administration as well as from the cost of the oppressive war and the effect of drought and the declining conditions of the (?spiritual values) of the world. On the social level, terror and discontent dominated every house so much so that the inhabitants of some areas in the north moved south and many families left the country in search of security and daily bread.

The permanent secretary then talked about the course followed by the 10 July movement since it assumed power and he explained that the 10 July movement has realized great gains. It spared the people the sufferings of the war and placed the country on the course of economic and social rectification. It is going to use the cadres to educate the masses and to lead the country to an honest democratic life.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN RETURNS FROM VISIT TO FRANCE

LD091322 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Marrakech, 9 Feb (MAP) -- King Hassan II of Morocco returned here Monday afternoon at the end of a work visit to France at the invitation of French President Francois Mitterrand, followed by a private stay there.

King Hassan II who was flanked by Prince Moulay Abdallah was greeted upon arrival by members of the Moroccan Government led by Prime Minister Mr Maati Bouabid, the ambassador of France to Rabat Mr Jacques Morizet and by other senior civilian and military officials.

LE MATIN ON ALGERIAN 'LIES' ON SAHARA REFERENDUM

PM091415 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 22 Jan 82 pp 1, 5

[Abdelhai Aboulkhatib article: "The Hairdresser Must Be Hanged"]

[Text] According to the official propaganda organ, ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE [APS], the Moroccan Government is busy preparing the political conditions for the failure of the forthcoming meeting of the referendum implementation committee appointed by the OAU summit conference. APS explains this "Moroccan intention" by the rejection "of real negotiations with the 'Polisario' Front on the cease-fire without which any popular consultation would be impossible."

Moreover, APS specifies that "the Algerian Government will take care to thwart any maneuver aimed at distorting the self-determination process and depriving the West Saharan people of the legitimate fruits of their struggle and sacrifices."

What, in fact, are these "political conditions?" To our knowledge, and also according to the evidence of political observers, the Moroccan Government has not taken any new initiative since His Majesty Hassan II proposed, in Nairobi last July, the holding of a confirmatory referendum in the Saharan provinces under OAU auspices. There have, of course, been statements by the prime minister and the minister of state for foreign affairs. But in their statements, Moroccan officials have limited themselves to expressing the hope that the referendum can be held as quickly as possible. There is nothing more which might justify the way in which the Algerian Government is now questioning our intentions.

The motives for the Algerian campaign of lies must therefore be sought elsewhere.

Strangely enough, it started the day after LE MONDE's publication of an interview with Tunisian Prime Minister Mzali who, trusting in Maghreb wisdom, confirmed what everybody knows about the willingness of Rabat and Algiers to continue high-level contacts. A 45-minute royal audience was indeed granted to Algerian Foreign Minister Ben Yahia, about which APS also remains strangely silent.

So, the Algerian Government has been in a state of crisis since Mzali's statement. Should the Tunisian prime minister be contradicted, thus showing that his hope of seeing peace restored to the region is merely an illusion. The Algerian Government has its practices and methods. Their fundamental basis is diversion and delaying tactics. It has thus decided to level its attacks at the Moroccan Government, thus reminding us of the proverb which says: "The minaret is crumbling, the hairdresser must be hanged."

In fact, we are no longer surprised at anything the Algerian regime does, its subterfuges, its psychological abuses, its lies, its hypocrisy, its cynicism, its about-faces and its instability.

It would not surprise us in the least if it were the victim of a power struggle. Mohamed Mzali is an honest, respectable and sincere militant, official and statesman, one of the pioneers of the great Maghreb and a man known for his virtue and wisdom. It would be disgraceful to offend him or doubt his words.

It is quite obvious that the Algerian Government has internal and external reasons for continually painting a black picture of the prospects and dashing all hope. It is part of its daily logic, otherwise it would have to expose itself to its people. It cannot conceive of it as an antidemocratic system, living on state terrorism and merely regarding man as a tool in the service of an apparatus. [sentence as published]

Faced with a deadline, the Algerian regime is giving free reign to its chronic hysteria. It does not want anything to do with Nairobi III, just as it never wanted a referendum. It bases its behavior in everything on the principle of "immediate possession."

An honest, sincere, general referendum, as the OAU wanted following His Majesty Hassan II's proposal, is seen in Algiers as a trap. The political conditions necessary for its failure must therefore be prepared.

This is what the Algerian Government has started to do. Nonetheless, we declare the fact that the pretext taken for this were the words spoken by Mzali, the man, the advocate and the architect of peace.

TUNISIA

BOURGUIBA RECEIVES LIBYAN SECRETARY 9 FEB

LD091450 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba this morning received Abu Zayd 'Umar Durdah, Libyan economy secretary, in the presence of Foreign Affairs Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi, and (Al-Bashir al-Jadidi), charge d'affaires of the Libyan Embassy [as heard] in Tunis.

(?Following) the meeting, Durdah said he conveyed to President Habib Bourguiba the wishes of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for a safe return and recovery. The great combatant, for his part, expressed the wish to meet Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and expressed his regret at not meeting him when he (?recently) passed through Tunisian territory. Durdah explained that the president extended an invitation to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to visit Tunisia.

ETHIOPIA

MANGISTU ISSUES DIRECTIVES ON ERITREA 9 FEB

EA091906 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam today issued the necessary working directives as a result of reports submitted to him this morning on the socioeconomic activities conducted in the Eritrean administrative region in accordance with the provisions of the Asmara Manifesto concerning the region's red star all-purpose revolutionary campaign. The reports were submitted to Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam at Asmara Palace by representatives of various socioeconomic task forces. The reports concern the achievements in the socioeconomic campaign.

After assessing the reports submitted to him, Comrade Chairman Mengistu issued directives on the planning and execution of the socioeconomic activities. Present on this occasion were Comrade Brig Gen Tesfaye Gebre Kidan, Provisional Military Administrative Council Standing Committee member, minister of defense and member of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] Executive Committee; ministers; COPWE Central Committee members and Executive Committee members of the Eritrean administrative region red star all-purpose revolutionary campaign.

ERITREANS DOWN PLANE; SOVIETS, CUBANS DEAD

NC092002 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Some 70 Soviet and Cuban experts and 60 Ethiopian officers were killed yesterday when the Ethiopian revolutionaries opposing the Ethiopian Government in the (Fegrai) region downed the plane carrying them to a forward military base in Asmara.

This was stated by the representative of the Front for the Liberation of Eritrea. The representative added that the Ethiopian forces have committed an enormous massacre in Asmara, in which they killed 180 civilians who were charged with collaborating with the revolutionaries in the wake of the revolutionaries attack on Asmara airport last Sunday during which five Ethiopian planes were destroyed.

EMBASSY IN DAKAR REJECTS IAS RESOLUTION

AB091610 Paris AFP in French 1449 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Dakar, 9 Feb (AFP) -- Ethiopia categorically rejected any interference in its domestic affairs by the Inter-African Socialist Movement (IAS). This was contained in a statement issued by its embassy in Dakar on Tuesday.

The embassy was referring to a resolution adopted at the IAS general meeting held in Dakar last week. The resolution condemned the plot against the Eritrean people for whom it reaffirmed its support for self-determination.

For the Ethiopian Embassy, the resolution portrays the ignorance of some people about the history and the actual facts of the issue while they claim to be depositaries of knowledge and champions of right and justice.

IAS, which was founded last February in Tunis, includes 10 African political parties with democratic socialist leanings.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

KOLINGBA COMPLETES LAW ON SPECIAL TRIBUNAL

AB090825 Paris AFP in French 0758 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Bangui, 9 Feb (AFP) -- CAR head of state Gen Andre Kolingba has modified and completed the provisions of the ordinance instituting the special tribunal, it was learned in Bangui on Tuesday.

In fact, this permanent special tribunal, created on 23 July 1981 by former President David Dacko, will render judgment on crimes and offenses against the state's internal and external security, political crimes and offenses as well as those connected with common law. Crimes and offenses of common law, determined wholly or partially on political grounds, also will be tried by the special tribunal.

CHAD

GOUKOUNI, DELEGATION LEAVE FOR NAIROBI SUMMIT

AB101125 Paris AFP in French 1054 GMT 10 Feb 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 10 Feb (AFP) -- The president of the Transitional National Union Government of Chad (GUNT) on Wednesday left Ndjamena for Nairobi, Kenya, to take part in the summit meeting of African heads of state on Chad.

The GUNT president traveled on board a Nigerian plane at the head of a 12-man delegation including Foreign Minister Ahmat Acyl, Rural Development Minister Lossimian Naimbaye, Justice Minister Kassire Koumakoye and Public Works Minister Facho Balaam.

The Chadian Government's decision to be represented at the Nairobi summit by President Goukouni was adopted following a special extraordinary Cabinet meeting devoted to this question.

MOBUTU VISIT POSTPONED; AUTHORITIES SILENT

AB081300 Paris AFP in French 1243 GMT 8 Feb 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 8 Feb (AFP) -- The visit which Zairian head of state Mobutu Sese Seko was scheduled to make to Chad on Friday has been put off until a later date, diplomatic sources announced in Ndjamena on Monday. Chadian authorities remain silent about the visit which was announced by reliable sources last week.

RWANDA

PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA RESHUFFLES CABINET 8 FEB

AB090721 Paris AFP in English 0714 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Kigali, 9 Feb (AFP) -- Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana Monday named a former personal aide, Francois Habiyakare, as labour and civil service minister in place of Edouard Karemera, who became a minister to the presidency looking after relations with the National Development Council.

Major Augustin Ndindiliymana was appointed youth and sports minister and former Social Affairs Minister Andre Nteagerura was named secondary education and scientific research minister. Former Youth and Sports Minister Felicien Gatabazi replaced Mr Ntagerura at social affairs.

GHANA

MILITARY PERSONNEL KILLED IN RECENT CLASHES

AB092036 Paris AFP in French 1742 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Accra, 9 Feb (AFP) -- Several Ghanaian soldiers, including some officers, were killed recently in Ghana, while clashes erupt regularly among the various units of the army, reliable sources announced in Accra on Tuesday.

The first of such fatal clashes occurred a day after the shooting which broke out at dawn on Thursday, 28 January, at Burma Camp -- the headquarters of the Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC) -- when a junior officer of the air force, charged with the protection of Flight Lt Jerry Rawlings, was shot in the head and killed at his residence.

A few days later, on 3 February, an air force officer-pilot was killed at the Burma Camp officers' mess by some military personnel, probably army, the same sources pointed out.

The following day, at Takoradi -- Ghana's major naval base 250 kms west of Accra -- two officers and one navy quartermaster were killed.

General opinion in Accra is that these executions are due to fact that the navy has always stayed clear of the revolutionary movement which toppled President Limann's regime on 31 December and remains very reserved toward Flight Lt Jerry Rawlings. The three persons shot are reported to have been killed for opposing the new regime.

In Kumasi, the capital of the Ashanti Region (central Ghana), a soldier on Sunday was found dead in a church. The Ghanaian press reported this death in a report on a football match also held in Kumasi. The Ghanaian journalist said actually tension suddenly rose very high during the match when weapons were heard and news of the death of the soldier under mysterious circumstances was whispered. Observers conclude that this report must have escaped control of the authorities who keep a close check on the press and radio and place journalists who write for the foreign press under military censorship.

Observers remark that these different incidents are indicators of the real feeling of uneasiness within the ranks of the various units of the army, especially among the officers who feel increasingly challenged by the lower ranks.

COUNCIL APPOINTS TWO NEW GBC DIRECTORS

AB091417 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] The PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] has appointed two new directors at the GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporation]. Mr David Anaglatey becomes the acting director of news and current affairs. He succeeds Mr Ewusu Bruckman, the present director, who is to proceed on an indefinite leave. Luke (Aba Hifred) replaces Mr Sam Danamond as director of television. Mr Danamond also should proceed on an indefinite leave.

The council has also appointed Mr Hudu Yahaya as the deputy secretary for Northern Region.

The council also directs that upon recommendations made by the Ministry of Information, three persons who worked with the press secretariat at the Castle in the deposed Limann administration should be dismissed. They are Mr Sam Kwedu, Mr Rezack el-Alawa and Mr M.M. Ada.

The appointments and dismissals take immediate effect.

WORKERS BURN MARKETS; FOOD STOCK SEIZED

AB090738 Paris AFP in English 0729 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Accra, 9 Feb (AFP) -- Groups of angry workers have burned down three markets in Koforidua, 60 miles (100 kms) north of here, because goods there were being sold at high prices in defiance of the orders of the Ghana's new military government, the local press reported Monday.

People's defence committees meanwhile seized stocks of millet, maize and sugar, currently scarce, in two areas of Accra after warning speculators last week that they would take action if the goods were not put on sale.

Thousands of Ghanaians meanwhile queued outside the capital's banks waiting to hand in 50-cedi (18 dollars) banknotes which have been called in by the authorities.

The ruling Provisional National Defence Council, headed by coup leader Jerry Rawlings, Monday lengthened the curfew by two hours without explanation in Kumasi, capital of the Ashanti Region.

ANTISMUGGLING CAMPAIGN ON TOGO BORDER LAUNCHED

AB082147 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 8 Feb 82

[Text] The people's police have in conjunction with the people's armed forces launched an intensive antismuggling operation along the Ghana-Togo border. Announcing this at a news conference in Accra today, the inspector general of police, Mr Kugblenu said the police have uncovered large quantities of petroleum products and headloads [as heard] of fish in the operation.

He appealed to all those who have information on the activities of smugglers to come forward. Mr Kugblenu aksed police along the borders to encourage the formation of defense committees to help them track down smugglers.

ANGOLA

CUBA'S RISQUET SPEAKS TO JOURNALISTS, ENDS VISIT

EA091336 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] The PRA [People's Republic of Angola] and the Republic of Cuba expressed identical views on the international situation, particularly in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, during the visit by Jorge Risquet, member of the Cuba Communist Party Political Bureau, to our country.

Addressing journalists yesterday at the end of his 5-day visit to the PRA, Jorge Risquet said the visit helped the parties and governments of the two countries in their exchange of opinions. Questioned on the current situation in the Caribbean, Jorge Risquet referred to the constant threat of aggression and the intensification of the economic boycott of Cuba by the United States. He went on to say that the Cuban people, as a firm and peaceful people, are prepared to confront any kind of aggression.

Jorge Risquet and the party and government delegation which accompanied him toured Huila Province where they witnessed the suffering caused by the South African attacks against the people of the southern part of our national territory.

A communique issued by our Foreign Ministry yesterday reaffirmed that during the recent visit by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca to our country, the two countries also expressed identical views. The communique emphasized the satisfaction of the two foreign ministers with the development of bilateral relations and cooperation. It said the two officials signed a plan to strengthen and promote cooperation between their Foreign Ministries. Comrades Paulo Jorge and Isidoro Malmierca signed a joint statement in Luanda, defining the common Angolan-Cuban position on the presence of Cuban forces in Angola.

DOS SANTOS RECEIVES PORTUGUESE COUNCIL MEMBER

AB091752 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1722 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] Luanda, 8 Feb (ANGOP) -- Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, this (Monday) afternoon received Lt Col Victor Alves, member of Portugal's Revolutionary Council, who brought greetings from the Portuguese head of state, Gen Ramalho Eanes.

Carlos Fernandes, foreign affairs secretary in the president's office, was present at the audience held at Futungo de Belas in Luanda.

Lt Col Victor Alves has been in Luanda since Sunday night on a brief 2-day courtesy visit to Angola.

U.S.-RSA PLAN NAMIBIA INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

AB092026 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1745 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Text] London, 9 Feb (ANGOP) -- The United States and the racist regime of Pretoria intend to unilaterally proclaim the independence of Namibia if the so-called Western contact group fails once again to impose the U.S. plan for the solution of the Namibian question.

According to the author of these arrogant statements made in Windhoek, racist K. Pretorius, leader of the National Party of South-West Africa, with neo-nazi leanings, the unilateral declaration of independence by Namibia, as was the case of Rhodesia in 1965, is the only way to solve the Namibian question for, he added, it would protect the rights of the white minority which would be guaranteed by the Pretoria regime which continues to illegally occupy Namibian territory.

Continuing to show his total disregard for the international community and the most basic principles of democracy, the head of the Namibia racists said cynically that the organization of elections on the basis the principle of one man, one vote, recommended by the outside world, would lead to the formation of a socialist-Marxist government, which in effect means recognition by the Pretoria regime of the massive support that the Namibian people give to their sole legitimate representative, SWAPO.

The said National Party of South-West Africa is an offshoot of the white minority party in power in South Africa and the two are closely linked with major U.S. political and financial circles.

Sources close to SWAPO, internationally recognized as the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people, indicate that statements such as those by the racist Pretorius are obviously provocative and cause concern in the most varied political circles.

The so-called National Party of South-West Africa in cooperation with its allies, more specifically with the U.S. and RSA special services, plans to divide Namibia to preserve the domination of the Pretoria regime. The proposed division of Namibian territory is aimed at throwing the blacks on arid lands where they would later be used as cheap labor as in the so-called Bantustans in South Africa. This plan constitutes a first step toward the institutionalization of apartheid in an independent Namibia.

Western news agencies indicate that within the framework of the preparation of this political and military action, troops of the racist South African Army have been placed at the disposal of the Namibian puppet authorities as well as a large number of mercenaries from the United States, Britain, Israel and other countries.

ZAMBIA

'SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS' OBTAINED FROM USSR

PM081535 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 6 Feb 82 p 8

[Article by diplomatic staff reporter John Bullock]

[Text] Zambia has obtained "sophisticated weapons" from the Soviet Union to protect her territory, President Kaunda said yesterday in Lusaka.

He did not specify the arms, but according to independent sources available to the DAILY TELEGRAPH they include ground to air missiles and tanks.

Western observers say there are now "some hundreds" of Soviet "advisers" serving with the Zambian forces, and it is expected there will be further shipments of arms soon.

Dr Kaunda complained that Western countries had refused to sell him arms, while supplying them to South Africa. When Zambia gained independence in 1964, he said, she had two weeks' supply of munitions. At the same time the West was equipping South Africa and Rhodesia.

In fact, Britain did supply an air defence system based on the Rapier missile. But this proved ineffective against incursions by the Rhodesian Air Force before Rhodesia became Zimbabwe, and also allowed South African planes to penetrate Zambian air space.

Now Zambia has secretly obtained Soviet-built SAM defences, which have been deployed around Lusaka and in the south of the country.

Near Caprivi Strip

According to Western observers, ground to air missiles have been sited at Mongu southern Zambia, near the South African controlled Caprivi Strip, which runs eastward from Namibia.

Defensive sites have also been built around Lusaka to protect Zambia's main air base.

The 16 MiG 21s bought from Russia under an earlier 70 million pounds deal have been based in Lusaka. Soviet technicians assembled the planes and stayed on to train Zambian pilots.

Since then Western businessmen have observed a steady flow of Soviet material along the Tazara railway linking Zambia with the coast at Dar es Salaam.

Most of it has arrived in Zambia during the night, and has been hastily unloaded at the little-used station of Chisamba, just north of Lusaka.

Trainload to Botswana

At least one trainload of weapons is known to have been sent on to Botswana via the link through Zimbabwe. Botswana and Zambia are coordinating their defences against South Africa.

Six weeks ago Western observers in Lusaka also noted a convoy of at least 20 Soviet tanks being moved through the city. These were carried on low loaders driven by men of "Caucasian appearance" and were moved at night on roads kept clear by Zambian security forces.

In Lusaka yesterday, President Kaunda, who spent his mandatory exile and political apprenticeship in London and who was always considered one of Africa's moderates, spoke scathingly of what he saw as the West's different standards concerning Poland and Africa.

"The so-called violation of human rights in Poland is nothing compared to the crimes committed by whites against blacks," he said.

"I wonder how the West can condemn Poland when it has been silent on murder and repression in South Africa. This contradiction on Poland is artificial, deceptive, unprincipled, and completely politically mad."

ZIMBABWE

OFFICIAL SAYS MORE ZAPU ARMS CACHES FOUND

CA100544 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Feb 82

[Excerpt] The minister of state in the prime minister's office, Comrade (Mnangagwa), says army and police units engaged in the Matabeleland search operation have uncovered 2 more arms caches and 30 military vehicles on property owned by ZAPU. In an interview published in today's issue of the HERALD, the minister says details of these discoveries will be given later. The new finding brings to 32 the number of arms caches found on ZAPU farms.

ZAPU Integrity Questioned

CA091140 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 8 Feb 82

[Text] The discovery of large quantities of small, big and sophisticated arms of war in ZAPU farms compels the people of Zimbabwe to question seriously the political integrity of ZAPU leadership.

The size of such arms, capable of arming more than a brigade and enough to create a bloody civil war, forces of one to ask whether some ZAPU leaders' presence in the government has been determined by a genuine commitment to national unity and peace or by sinister political designs to overthrow the government? Could it be that there are two ZAPU organizations, one loyal to the present government, led by the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, and a dissident wing working along the lines of the counterrevolutionary movements of southern Africa? One may ask, how many members of the ZAPU Central Committee knew about the existence of these caches of arms on the organizations' farms? Would it carry any weight to say that the arms racket has been organized by some military commanders without the knowledge of the political leadership? Given a series of destabilizing incidents against the government, one may ask what guarantee is there that some of the ZAPU elements have not been collaborating with the external enemy?

In the light of the discovery of these arms, would the ZAPU leadership tell the public what their true meaning of national reconciliation is because their (?first assertions) on the policy are now in very serious doubt. Secondly, the right answers to these questions will have to come from the president of ZAPU and his top political and military leaders. For one thing, the discovery of arms on the ZAPU farms apparently means that the organization has a military wing which is not part of the national army. And if we are to call a spade a spade, the illegal possession of such large quantities of arms by a political organization amounts to a national crime which can only be qualified as treason. The action taken by the government of confiscating the ZAPU farms where the military hardware had been found clearly shows the most humane and forgiving attitude of the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, and his full commitment to the policy of national reconciliation. It is therefore important that the former Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army [ZIPRA] commanders in the Zimbabwe National Army heed the warning of the prime minister and carry out his orders to surrender the hidden arms. Only through that can the people of Zimbabwe be able to live in peace, love and unity.

It is also important that the former ZIPRA commanders and cadres should not allow themselves to be used as cannonfodder in the myopic political ventures by certain power-hungry individuals. We therefore appeal to these comrades to surrender all the hidden arms to the government. We would like also to remind them that they fought for the independence of this country, survived the war to see the birth of an independent Zimbabwe and to be rejoined with their families. It should be very foolish for these comrades to indulge in a suicidal game of trying to spark off a war in order to fulfill the ambitions of certain political malcontents. The earlier those involved in the game realize that the better.